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Calgary metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 12-15, 2016

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A TRIBUTE

Funeral held for Caldwell twins, who died in a bobsled track crash

metroNEWS

INGLEWOOD

City trees chopped

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Hundreds of years of Inglewood foliage is now gone in one felled swoop.

On Wednesday, city crews began marking trees and removed about 16 of 42 old timbers from where they once stood beside the Bow — a move that has community members shocked and concerned.

Derek Heric with the city said removal was necessary. Many of the trees, he said, were 30 years old, grew in the way of the new 12 Street SE bridge's planned approach, or were in the way of utility line relocation and construction staging areas.

"We want to build a better city, not take away the beauty. But sometimes we have to do that," Heric said.

But Inglewood Community Association president Sara Poldaas said that's little consolation for residents, who won't in their lifetime see the area canopy restored.

The trees will be replaced after the bridge project is completed. According to the city's calculation, the value of removed trees was estimated at $150,000 — and that money will be taken out of the project budget for new saplings.

More coverage, page 7

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metro NEWS

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'Nnnrraaaggaaahhh': Habs player turns prankster with the help of beloved Wookiee. **Canada**

Twitter inspires City Hallmark

LOVE AND POLITICS

Cute councillor Valentine's cards make the rounds online

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Don't ward off your love for city hall this Valentine's Day.

Wear your heart on your sleeve and let all the cool kids at school know you're a council nerd with Calgary City Council Valentines.

The creations have been making the rounds on Twitter since mid-week, when local social-media star @Crackmacs put up a single example.

A play on a classic Simpsons episode, it featured Coun. Sean Chu's face with the words "I Chu Chu Choose you."

Alyssa Moore, also known as Twitter user @lyssamoo, took the idea and ran with it. "Being that I'm a shameless political junkie and an aficionado of puns, my colleagues and I agreed it only made sense for me to take it to the next level," she said.

She and her coworkers at not-for-profit tech firm Cybera were slinging puns throughout the afternoon, and the Valentines made their way online Wednesday evening.

As for Mayor Nenshi's response on Twitter to his Valentine: "So wrong. And so, so right. (And never mind that it relies on mispronouncing my name.)"

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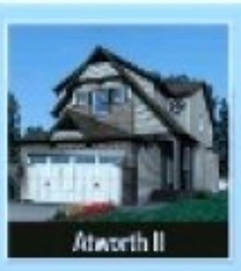

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Chief calling for reforms to Police Act

REGULATIONS

Chaffin says out-of-date rules 'really tie your hands'

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Calgary police Chief Roger Chaffin said he's in talks with the government about making changes to what he believes to be an out-of-date Police Act.

Chaffin's thoughts on the Police Act come after it was made public that former Calgary police officer, Anthony Braile, was suspended for seven years with pay, making roughly $800,000, before ultimately being dismissed for "egregious misconduct."

"We find the time delays unreasonable and not serving the interest of employees, the public or the interest of policing," he said. "These are factors that I and the force are trying to address through the province and some contemporary forms of our Police Act."

Calgary police Chief Roger Chaffin said the current Police Act is contradictory and constraining. METRO FILE

Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley said she shares Chaffin's concerns.

"I will work with my officials to look into the matter to understand whether and to what extent legislation contributed to the delay," she said.

Chaffin said the current Police Act contradicts itself, making it difficult for the service to handle situations such as Braile's in a timely and suitable manner.

He said the act "really ties your hands" when trying to deal with these situations appropriately.

"It's just really not fair," he added.

Ganley said she's open to discussions about police service and public concerns.

"Input into policing from police services, police associations and the community is vital to ensure law enforcement can effectively protect Albertans and I will continue to listen to the issues they raise," she said.

Chaffin said in his talks with Ganley and the ministry he has found them receptive to his concerns.

IN BRIEF

Man sought in B.C. home invasion may be in Calgary

Michael Andres Salvador
COURTESY RCMP

The RCMP are looking for a B.C. home invasion suspect they believe is now in the Calgary area.

Michael Andres Salvador, 24, is the subject of an arrest warrant stemming from a home invasion that occurred in Cranbrook, B.C., on Feb. 4.

He is described as about five-foot-four, 140 pounds with black hair and brown eyes.

RCMP are asking anyone with information on his whereabouts to call the Calgary police or Crime Stoppers. METRO

Okotoks man charged with indecent act

Calgary police have charged one man following an investigation into a man possibly approaching teenage girls in Evergreen and Bridlewood.

At around 12:15 p.m. on Jan. 25, a man was observed masturbating inside a white Honda Civic beside a school playground in the 200 block of Bridlewood Way SW. When he was confronted by a passerby, he drove away.

A short time later, police located a vehicle and person matching the description given by witnesses parked in the nearby community of Shawnessy. The suspect was arrested without incident.

Mark Angelo Catapang, 24, of Okotoks, is charged with an indecent act in a public place. He's scheduled to appear in court on March 8. METRO

Toddler injured after being struck by car in northeast

EMS has confirmed that a toddler was taken to hospital Thursday after being struck by a vehicle at about 3:30 p.m. in the 600 block of Taralake Way NE. He was taken to hospital for precautionary reasons with minor injuries.

Calgary police confirmed the boy will be fine. METRO

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Saddle bags
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Winter boots
They don't have to be too pricey, but make sure they're warm. Sean Carter suggests getting roomy boots to fit layers and layers of socks.

Mild winter layers: Once it gets warmer feel free to unzip or pack up a layer.

Full-on winter: Sean Carter says this getup gets him through -25 C temperatures.

Pedalling away the winter blues

WEATHER

Cyclist offers tips on easing into successful biking routine

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

If you're stuck with how to start biking through Calgary's wintry weather, Metro has got you covered.

Friday is the fourth annual Winter Bike to Work day — and judging from the forecast, a dandy time to ease into winter weather cycling.

Sean Carter, the co-owner of BikeBike has seen an astronomical increase in winter cyclists in Calgary since he opened up shop in 2010. He's selling more studded tires, gloves and hats to those willing to brave the cold on a bike.

As a year-round cyclist himself, he's also a bit of an expert on the art of braving blizzards.

"If you're riding during the summer already, in the nice months, what we normally recommend is to try and keep riding as far into it as you can," Carter said.

He said winter cycling isn't actually that hard if you don't overthink it, and it doesn't take much extra gear.

"Layers, layers, layers — that's the biggest thing," Carter said. "The temperature fluctuations can be all over the place, so you have to plan accordingly for that, and that's where layers can be really helpful."

When planning your travels, Carter said don't assume a summer route will work the same in the winter. Not all streets are plowed the same or a pathway connection may no longer be there.

> **Layers, layers, layers — that's the biggest thing.**
> Sean Carter on winter cycling

If you're looking for traction, try studded tires. They offer a higher level of confidence when coming up against ice.

Friday from 7 to 9 a.m. there will be a celebration at Eau Claire Market hosted by Bike Calgary.

Calgary administration and city councillors have been invited to the event and are being encouraged to get there on two wheels instead of four.

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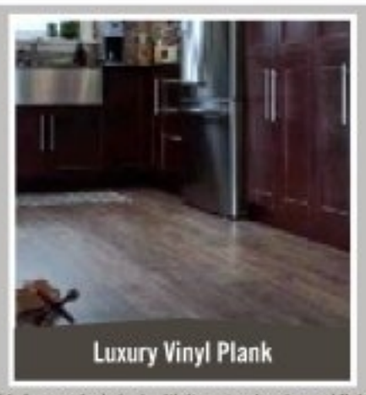
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POLITICS

Inglewood residents upset as city marks 42 trees for removal

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Inglewood's trust in the City of Calgary was felled when 42 trees adjacent to the 12 Street bridge replacement project were marked for removal.

In the blink of an eye, residents saw hundreds of years disappear from the Bow River Pathway foliage, and leaders in the community are now concerned about what lies ahead, with the many construction projects underway in Inglewood.

Sara Poldaas, Inglewood Community Association (ICA) president, told Metro her group wasn't expecting to say goodbye to 36 mature trees — a figure now confirmed by the city as six higher than that. With the surprise felling, she says, community members are concerned about what's next in the project, and what other pertinent details the city left out of May 2015 consultations.

"The issue now is that while the city had engaged the community in some feedback sessions in May of this year to let them know about plans ... there's some key information that was missing the community now feels, particularly around the removal of these trees," Poldaas said.

She added the extent of the removal and amount of damage done is significant and wasn't made clear to the community.

The city didn't have anyone available to comment on what consultation was done along with the bridge project consultation, instead pointing to the City's engagement summaries on calgary.ca.

As it stands, there aren't concrete plans in place for what the area will look like, but Poldaas mentioned in renderings and plans the park where many trees are now missing is depicted with a paved plaza, something residents aren't too keen on.

Rebecca O'Brien, executive director of the Inglewood Business Revitalization Zone, said she's also concerned with the state of what was the most appealing entrance to the neighbourhood.

"The Inglewood BRZ has a strong emphasis on enhancing the public realm and we are focusing on how to draw people into Inglewood and the pedestrian is the highest priority," O'Brien said.

She said keeping up with all the projects in the area: bridge replacement, zoo berm, bird sanctuary construction, green line — is overwhelming.

"There's no question there's consultation and engagement fatigue in Inglewood," O'Brien said. "Really, at the end of the day, the sense out there is the same old thing is going to happen regardless."

O'Brien said the BRZ and ICA will both be meeting with city officials Friday.

Logan is being mourned. COURTESY CALGARY ZOO

Calgary Zoo loses otter

INVESTIGATION

Keeper noticed Logan was in trouble, but it was too late

Calgary Zoo zookeepers are mourning the loss of a 12-year-old North American river otter named Logan, who died Thursday.

At about 11 a.m., a zookeeper noticed a male otter struggling in the otter pool. The zookeeper jumped in to help — but the zoo is reporting that the animal did not survive.

Officials said they are currently investigating the situation to verify details of the incident.

"This is a very tragic incident that we are all trying to cope with. We appreciate the consideration while we continue to sort out the details of today's event," said Colleen Baird, general curator of Calgary Zoo, in the release.

Three otters remain at the zoo: one-year-old Finnegan, 12-year-old Charlotte and a 16-year-old male named Callebaut.

The Cequel Lodge in Canadian Wilds where the otter habitat is located will remain open.

METRO

12

Age of Logan when he died. Three other otters survive him at the zoo: a 16-year-old, a 12-year-old and a one-year-old.

Police call for prepaid-gas law

MARYAM RASHIDI

Worker run over last year in gas-and-dash theft

Police chiefs want the Alberta government to devise a law that would require drivers to prepay at the pump before filling up.

The Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police has passed a resolution calling for legislation and which notes gas-and-dash thieves can injure or kill gas station employees.

RCMP Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan, president of the association, said prepaying would also benefit business owners by reducing gasoline thefts and freeing up police to work on other crimes.

"We feel that it is a win-win on a number of fronts, but most importantly it is that safety component," Ryan said Thursday.

The chiefs passed a similar resolution in 2011, but the former Progressive Conservative government did not accept it.

Maryam Rashidi (inset), was killed in Calgary last June trying to stop a fuel theft at a gas station. Alberta's police chiefs are now calling for laws to force people to prepay for gas at the pump.
METRO FILE

Ryan said chiefs decided to raise the prepay proposal again with the government last summer following the June death of Maryam Rashidi, a Calgary service-station worker who was run over during a gas-and-dash theft.

> **One lost life is too many.**
> Marianne Ryan

"The loss of Ms. Rashidi really accentuated a sense of urgency," Ryan said. "We can't let that happen again."

The NDP government has been more receptive and told the chiefs association in November that it would review its concerns, but has given no indication what it plans to do or when, she said.

This week, Labour Minister Christina Gray said it's time to take steps to better protect vulnerable workers. She said the province will consult businesses and employees to identify long-term changes to improve safety.

The Alberta Federation of Labour also says it's time for action. The province need only look to British Columbia, where a prepay law has been on the books since 2008, said federation president Gil McGowan.

He said the Alberta government should introduce a bill during the spring sitting of the legislature.

"The B.C. model works. It has been in place for almost a decade now and it has saved lives," McGowan said. "We see no reason to wait any longer."

There was some pushback by customers and businesses at first, but people generally got used to it, he said.

A member of the Ontario legislature introduced a private member's bill proposing prepay legislation following the 2012 death of a gas-station worker in Toronto, but it never came to a final vote.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

GRANT'S LAW

B.C. regulation curtails gas robberies: McCloy

The B.C. regulation known as Grant's Law was passed after gas-station worker Grant De Patie was killed in 2005 trying to prevent a gas-and-dash robbery over $12.30 worth of fuel. In Vancouver alone, the number of reported gas-and-dash thefts dropped to 15 in 2008 after the law came in the year before, said Scott McCloy, a spokesman for WorkSafeBC. The number of robberies each year since then has been one or none. "I think it is pretty clear that the regulation has virtually eliminated or severely curtailed gas-and-dash robberies, putting workers at less risk," McCloy said.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Business booming for painter Pancho

metro EFFECT

Multiple job offers for man with ailing wife

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The family, from left: Liliana Mardones (sister of Pancho), Vanessa, Nick and Pancho Mardones. LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

Pancho Mardones said the outpouring of support his family has received over the last week overwhelms him.

"It's was just unbelievable," he said. "There are such good people who don't even know us willing to help us."

Metro brought you Mardones' story Monday. Tough economic times has slowed down business for the painter. With his wife Susanna battling breast cancer, Mardones was looking for a hand up, but not a handout, and asked Calgarians to put him to work with their painting needs.

An emotional Mardones said since Metro told his family's story the response has been amazing, and he's received multiple job offers.

"Lots of people have sent us best wishes and I have a meeting with a customer tomorrow as well," he said.

Mardones said one lady even texted him to offer help by preparing food or driving his wife to medical appointments.

Collin Spires, owner of Get my 3 Quotes, has been facilitating fundraising and offering his company's contract quoting services to Mardones for free. He said visits to their site doubled the day the article was published. People have specifically requested Mardones take on their job, and the contractor community has rallied around the family.

"We've raised just under $1,000 for the family just through contractors donating $20 or so," Spires said.

Spires delivered $400 to Mardones Thursday at the Peter Lougheed Centre, while Susanna was in surgery. Another man in the room heard the family's story and gave him another $60.

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Mayor Naheed Nenshi holds two-month-old Raed Hasson, whose family came to Calgary three days ago from Turkey. HELEN PIKE/METRO

'We're doing great ... capacity is there'

SYRIAN REFUGEES

Success means city may be asked to do more: minister

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Bring on the refugees — Calgary's ready.

In a crowded room filled with business executives, politicians and refugees who now call Calgary home, Fariborz Birjandian, the CEO of the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society put out a challenge for the Canadian government — which John McCallum, federal minister of immigration, refugees and citizenship heard loud and clear.

On Thursday, the Community Foundations of Canada announced a $600,000 contribution from the Welcome Fund For Syrian Refugees given to the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society. The money, contributed by private sector businesses like CN, Manulife and GM, will be used to help settle refugees into permanent housing.

"I think the capacity for the numbers, we're anticipating another 200 people arriving by the end of February, we're prepared for that," Birjandian said. "Additionally with this injection of cash we're in a much better position to secure housing.... If the provincial government, in discussion with the feds, decides to send more people in Calgary, I think we're ready."

Compared to other cities welcoming refugees, so far Calgary has fared well, and we're able to house new families on average within 15 days. But Mayor Naheed Nenshi said there's still a challenge ahead with large families, and multigenerational families.

"We're doing great, the capacity is there," said Nenshi.

"We have seen more very large families than we were expecting, families with many, many children, and the housing for those families, and multigenerational families, has been more challenging than we expected."

According to Birjandian, the new funds will help give $500 subsidies to families — about 550 people — which would facilitate faster moves into permanent housing. He added the money would also help diversify the areas within Calgary where refugees are settled.

McCallum said Canada expects to welcome the full 25,000 refugees promised by the end of February, but that he wouldn't be surprised if Calgary, a success story for refugee settlement, is asked to take on more.

$600,000

The contribution from the Welcome Fund For Syrian Refugees given to the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society.

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These little piggies went to broadcast

HUMANE SOCIETY

Shelter will be trying to find four piglets a new home

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Piglets made their debut on social media for a behind-the-scenes look at the Humane Society. COURTESY CALGARY HUMANE SOCIETY

Four little piglets are hogging the spotlight at the Calgary Humane Society this week.

Staff have been working to socialize the five-week-old piglets, getting them used to new sights, smells and touches so that meeting new people isn't a big deal when they're adopted.

"The first couple of times we did it, they had their bums stuck together and didn't want to move," said community relations manager Sage Pullen McIntosh.

McIntosh said the Humane Society is trying to give Calgarians a behind-the-scenes look at what they do. The piglet socialization on Thursday was their first live broadcast through the Periscope app.

The organization doesn't turn any animals away, and two adult pigs were brought in months ago. Upon examination, they realized one of the pigs was pregnant.

The piglets are more nervous than most animals. But when it comes to stealing hearts, they have the chops to stand out.

"Pigs can have pretty strong personalities, too," said McIntosh. "We found that one is definitely a bit more vocal than the others, one's a bit more shy and the other two are more social."

Once they're older and ready to be adopted, McIntosh said, the screening process will be more in-depth than usual. Bylaw restrictions prevent anyone in the city from adopting them.

McIntosh said they'll be looking for experienced pig owners to make sure they go to a loving home — and not on a dinner plate.

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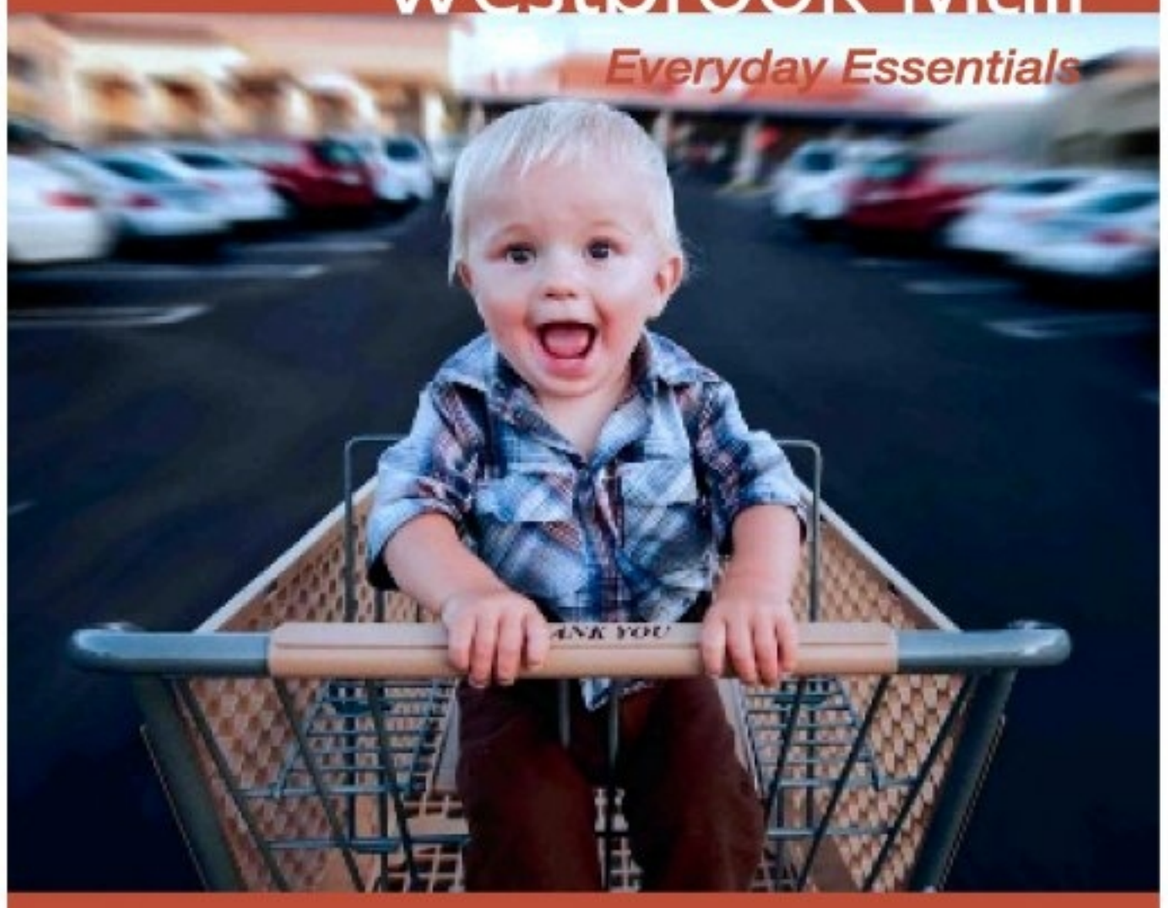
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Twins mourned after accident

FUNERAL

Faith focus of memorial for boys who died at Olympic Park

The sobbing sister of identical twin brothers who died in an after-hours joyride down a bobsled track told mourners Thursday that "two of the biggest pieces" of her heart are gone.

Katie Caldwell said her 17-year-old brothers Jordan and Evan were fun-loving, kind and overly fond of pranks.

"Pranks between those two boys was almost their own love language, but their jokes never went too far and would have never been this cruel. Evan and Jordan would never have wanted for us … to suffer like this," she cried.

"You were taken from us too soon. There are just no words. Two of the biggest pieces of my heart are gone. You guys took those pieces with you. All I can do is stand here in front of you and ask you all to remember them."

The twins had been "ambassadors," welcoming guests and scanning tickets at the park last season.

The boys' father, Jason Caldwell, told the more than 2,200 people who attended the 90-minute service that he's proud of his sons. He said they were smart, accomplished and always willing to help a friend.

"(Their mother) Shauna and I never, ever had to have that talk with the boys about excellence. Excellence was in their hearts. There was never an I-have-to attitude. They always had an I-get-to attitude to everything they did."

A memorial table focused on the boys' faith and their academic achievement.

"Jesus Loves Nerds" proudly proclaimed one poster on a table at Calgary's Centre Street Church. Medals, a ski helmet, flowers, notes from friends and T-shirts with the images of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Abraham Lincoln were carefully laid out.

Pastor Glen Nudd of Rocky Mountain Calvary Chapel, the family's church, has known the boys since birth and said he has fond memories of them.

"They were full of passion, excellence. They loved God and they loved people," he recalled before the memorial started.

He said the family's faith is getting them through the ordeal.

"It's everything. They're very sad, but their sadness is buoyed up by their faith in Jesus and knowing that they're going to be together again."

Nudd also remembered the fun side of the two young men, who took great delight when people couldn't tell them apart.

"In fact they had a lot of fun being twins that looked exactly the same," he said with a smile.

"How I got to finally figure out who was who is one of them had a mullet, and that was Evan, and Evan decided to get rid of his mullet, which was hard on me, because I was back trying to figure out who was who again."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> "Two of the biggest pieces of my heart are gone. You guys took those pieces with you. Katie Caldwell

Above: Sister Katie Caldwell, right, delivers a tribute as father Jason Caldwell looks on at a memorial service for twin brothers Evan and Jordan Caldwell, killed in a Saturday bobsled track incident at Canada Olympic Park, in Calgary on Thursday. The brothers were buried earlier in the day at a private ceremony. LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ TRAGIC DEATH

Joyride on bobsled track turns to disaster

The twins, along with six others, snuck onto the bobsled track at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary early Saturday.

The friends were tobogganing down when they hit a gate separating the bobsled and luge runs used during the 1988 Winter Olympics.

Three of those injured remained in hospital Thursday.

Both WinSport and the Calgary police continue their investigations into the crash.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A guitar sits in front of a tribute table prior to the funeral for twin brothers Evan and Jordan Caldwell.
LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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5 THINGS TO DO THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

Looking for things to do around Calgary with your significant other — or alone? Here's where to start.

Have a paint date
Raw Canvas Paint Studio and Vin Gogh Paint and Sip Studio are both offering paint sessions for you and your loved one, or best friend, or mom, or whoever. Vin Gogh will be offering a buffet dinner during the evening. Book spots at vingoh.ca.

Make gelato
Spend some time with you valentine creating your own gelato at Fiasco Gelato. There will also be champagne and other goodies. Tickets are $262.50 per couple, and you can book a time slot at fiascogelatoshop.com.

Pull out your skates
There's just something romantic about holding hands and skating in unison. Olympic Plaza is the only one that's open right now, given the warmer weather. Rentals are available at the rink. It's open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Go to Banff
Yes, it may be busy, but who doesn't love a Banff getaway over the long weekend? Try the Bear Street Tavern for some reasonably priced and delicious pizza. Or, grab some fudge and other goodies at the town's numerous chocolate shops. There's also the hot springs.

Axe throwing speed date
Join singles at Axe Throwing YYC on Sunday at 7 p.m. You will get five throws with each potential date, so make sure you've sharpened your flirting skills. There might be lumbersexuals and, who knows, you may hit your target. Make sure you bring closed shoes. Tickets are $48.54. METRO

Mr. Gorgeous will perform alongside the Garter Girls at the Engineered Air Theatre on Friday and Saturday. CONTRIBUTED

Burlesque — with bite

ENTERTAINMENT

Garter Girls' show a thrill for couples, singles alike

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The Garter Girls don't mind being a little raunchy on Valentine's Day — something for those who like to wear black on the day of love.

"While burlesque can be very romantic — which appeals to couples — it can also be anti-romance, too," said Raven Virginia, who performs with the local burlesque troupe. "It's hard to explain other than that while we enjoy stuff that's sensual and romantic, we also like to do stuff that's really raunchy and odd."

The Garter Girls are bringing Mr. Gorgeous — dubbed the king of burlesque — to the The Engineered Air Theatre at Arts Commons on Friday and Saturday.

She said he'll bring a gender-bending style that will surprise audiences.

"We want to do burlesque that's unexpected," she said. "He is really gorgeous but, what's great about that, is he flips that classic Hollywood look and does something super odd and weird."

Virginia said she stumbled into watching the Garter Girls about seven years ago.

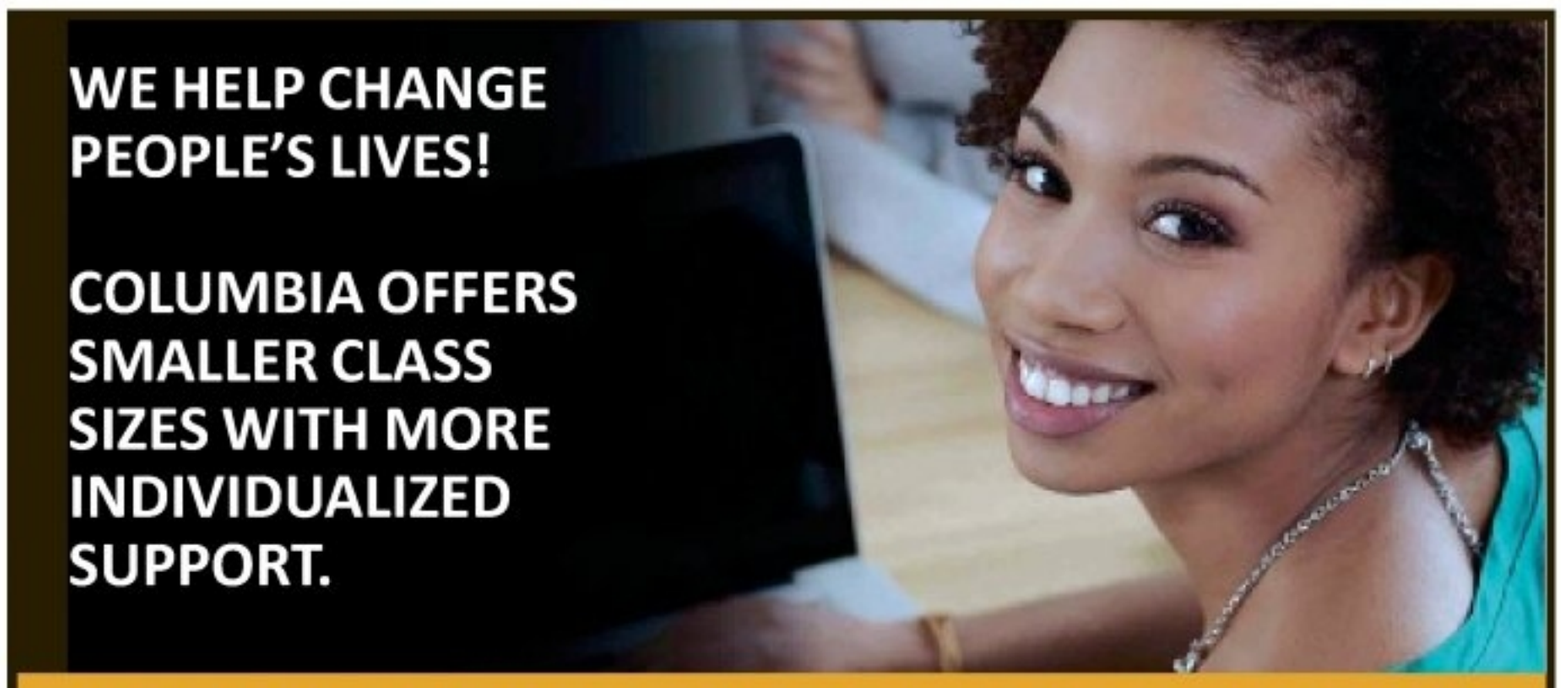
She was hooked and, about three years ago, bought into the company with her best friends.

"We've just been constantly striving to expand and elevate burlesque, and make it entertaining and accessible," she said. "We want to expose the Calgary audience to what it's all about."

But don't worry — the show is also for those who also have a Valentine, Virginia added.

"It's for everyone," she said. "That's what makes doing this show great."

The show starts at 8:30 p.m. and tickets are available at thegartergirls.com.



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2012 Lexus IS 350 AWD

56K 147021A 81,200KMS voice activated HDD navigation system with backup camera, power moonroof, power tilt and telescopic steering wheel, rear window power sunshade, ventilated front seats, driver and memory system with 3 settings, auto dimming mirrors and

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56K 155527A 85,934KMS voice activated HDD navigation system with remote touch, 12 speaker premium audio system, heated and ventilated front seats, power moonroof, memory system for driver and passenger, power tilt and telescopic steering wheel, rear window power sunshade, ventilated front seats, driver and memory system with 3 settings, auto dimming mirrors and much more!

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56K 144654A 53,465KMS heated seats, cruise control, steering wheel controls, leather wrapped steering wheel, power adjustable driver's seat, memory, heated mirrors, roof rack, and much more!

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56K 160025A 76,474KMS lane departure alert, dynamic radar cruise control, four camera surround view monitor, blind spot monitor, rear cross traffic alert, tri-zone automatic climate control, heated and ventilated front seats, power adjustable driver seat with memory, heated 2nd row outboard seats, rear entertainment DVD system, navigation system, and much more!

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Province adds $10M in non-profit grants

SOCIAL SERVICES

Kids Cancer Foundation among 294 projects aided

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The Alberta government is providing more than $10 million in program grants to assist 294 projects throughout the province.

Projects include facility upgrades and construction, playground development and supports for community programs and activities.

Calgary's Kids Cancer Foundation of Alberta is on the list, receiving $75,000 for its SunMaker program at Camp Kindle.

Stew Reid, chief development officer with the organization, said the government funds about one per cent of its operations — the Kids Cancer Foundation needs about $1.2 million for its camp programs.

Belgravia Community League Hall in Edmonton is among the projects funded by a $10M investment in non-profits. CONTRIBUTED

SunMaker helps children adjust to a cancer diagnosis and deal with the impact of treatment and long-term effects on families.

Reid said about 1,500 kids are sent to camp each year.

Due to trying times, the Kids Cancer Foundation won't increase spending for its upcoming fiscal year, Reid added.

Though he's seen less support from corporations, he said individuals have stepped up to the plate.

"I anticipate it's going to be more challenging this next year," he said. "But a lot of individuals step up to the plate when times are tough. Support was strong last year and we're hoping it's strong this year."

Of the $10 million, the government is funding $6 million in Community Facility Enhancement Program grants and $4.5 million in Community Initiative Program grants.

"This investment in the work of community-based organizations will help ensure that Alberta's youth, families and the most vulnerable in our communities continue to have access to important programs and services," said Ricardo Miranda, minister of culture and tourism, in a news release.

"Projects to upgrade and develop new community-use facilities and programs also help to support local business and create new job opportunities."

TRAFFIC

Fatal crash leads to call for senior testing

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Although a senior was behind the wheel in the first pedestrian fatality of 2016, police say they don't believe age was a factor in the incident.

A 66-year-old woman was struck at a marked pedestrian crossing on Centre Street North near 18th Avenue on Monday evening. She was taken to hospital and later died.

Staff Sgt. Paul Stacey of Calgary Police Service's traffic division said the 71-year-old driver remained at the scene and is cooperating with the investigation. Age is not considered to be a factor.

Alberta currently requires a signed medical report from a doctor at ages 75 and 80, and every two years past the age of 80 for seniors who want to drive.

Dr. Louis Francescutti, past president of the Canadian Medical Association and U of A professor, thinks seniors should get tested.

"There's no doubt about it — night vision is different, reaction time is different," said Francescutti. "The goal is to make sure they don't crash. I don't think seniors would be that offended by it."

But Ruth Adria, chairwoman of the Elder Advocates of Alberta, does take exception to that suggestion. She said seniors are among the safest drivers on the road, and insurance statistics back that up.

"We want to make it a charter issue," she said. "It's an incredible injustice, and we're working on it."

THE STATS

Early-60s drivers safest of all: Insurance industry

Drivers between the ages of 60 and 64 have the lowest rates of collision claims per insured vehicle year, according to the Insurance institute for Highway Safety.

Per-capita fatal crash rates begin to climb, however, for drivers above age 70.

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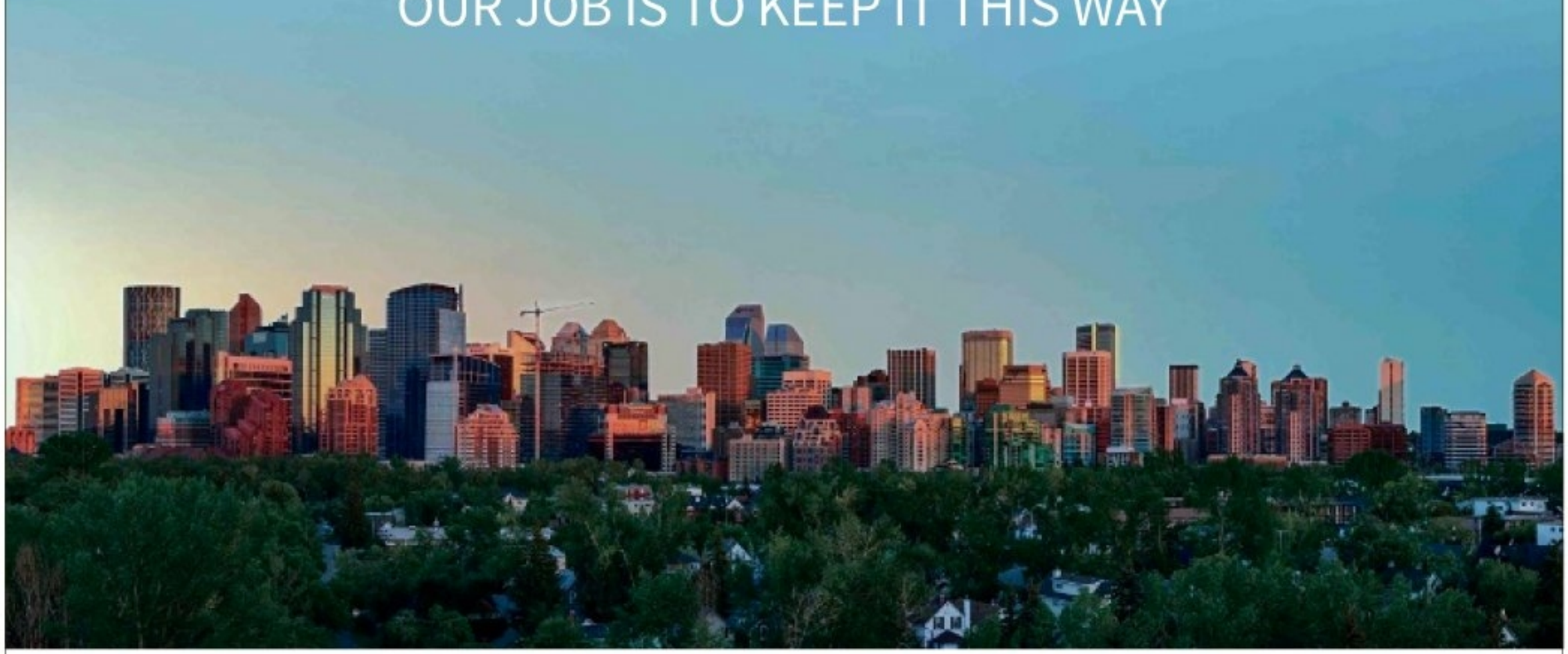

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It's a coming-of-age tale from a galaxy far, far away that dives into what it's like to lay down the lightsaber and enter adulthood.
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Star Wars and 'the kid'

VERTIGO THEATRE

The Boy's Own Jedi Handbook plays through Feb. 21

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

It's been a pleasure for Christian Goutsis to see his son, Simon, fall in love with Star Wars.

Goutsis, also a Star Wars fanatic, is exploring the galactic phenomenon by playing "the kid" in Ground Zero Theatre's The Boy's Own Jedi Handbook.

Yes, he and Simon have seen Star Wars' latest instalment in theatres.

"He's kind of obsessed right now, which is really fun," Goutsis said. "Through watching him play, I can use some of that stuff (in the play). I watch the way he imagines and fuse some of that with my performance."

The play delves into how Star Wars changed "the kid's" life. It's a coming-of-age story that touches on what it's like to ditch the toys and enter adulthood.

In fact, it's Goutsis' third instalment of the play. He last played "the kid" with Ground Zero back in 2002.

But this time around, he's unearthed a deeper understanding of how the popular sci-fi flicks affected his childhood.

"The character has struggles being a kid and what it means to grow up," he said. "Being an older guy now, it's a deeper sense of that understanding."

The deeper understanding also shines through in his acting, he added.

"I certainly keep those childhood memories alive," he said. "Although it's a movie, it's near and dear to my heart."

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Bottled message reveals concerns

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Only 10 months ago Addison Asuchak tossed a message in a bottle off the coast of Greenland, the bottle was found on the coast of Spain — a discovery that left Asuchak disappointed.

"It was supposed to take two years to travel, but it took 10 months and went further than expected," he said.

Asuchak said this is evidence that water levels are rising and moving faster, and he'll be taking his story to a roundtable panel discussion in Russia to talk about the effects of climate change.

"When I was in the Arctic I saw glacier calving," he recalled. "We were all cheering and then I sort of stopped and said, guys, we're witnessing climate change."

He said the expedition as a whole opened his eyes to global warming, and, at a friend's encouragement, led him to apply to be part of this panel, which involves professionals from around the globe. His application was accepted and he'll be boarding a plane at the end of the month.

Asuchak hopes to spark discussion about what businesses can do to be more eco-friendly in their production methods.

"It doesn't necessarily mean we need to live with less," he explained. "We just need to live smarter."

Asuchak is hoping to get a local company to sponsor his venture, in exchange for wearing their logos or clothing and posting pictures of the discussions on his Instagram.

Addison Asuchak, in his final semester at Mount Royal University, is taking a few days from his studies to take part in a global warming panel held in Russia. AARON CHATHA/METRO

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WOOD AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Gas line may delay transit plan

SOUTHWEST BRT

Moving pipe could open city to objections from residents

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

The high-pressure gas pipeline that runs underneath 14th Street SW could potentially cause a delay for the city in its quest to build a bus rapid transit (BRT) system for the area.

The BRT plan has been opposed by a group of concerned citizens calling themselves Ready to Engage.

They have cited safety concerns about traffic travelling over the 10-inch high-pressure pipeline, even though Mayor Naheed Nenshi and transportation manager Mac Logan publicly dismissed those concerns as outlandish.

However, the pipeline could cause procedural problems for the city if it needs to be moved, because ATCO Pipelines will have to notify residents adjacent to the line.

The city has said the high-pressure gas pipeline under 14th Street SW is not a danger, but if the city needs to move it, nearby residents could object under Alberta Utilities Commission rules. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

A spokesperson for ATCO Pipelines explained the company works closely with nearby landowners and often goes above the required consultations required by the Alberta Utilities Commission.

ATCO would require written non-objection from adjacent landowners, and if any of those land owners did object, the matter could go before the Alberta Utilities Commission for a ruling.

The spokesperson said that appeal process can take anywhere from one to nine months.

Ready to Engage has launched an extensive door-knocking campaign since December and has plenty of residents who have signed a petition supporting them.

> **Ready to Engage is not interested in stalling tactics, per se.**
> Rick Donkers

The group's spokesman, Rick Donkers, wouldn't say if his group would use an appeal process as a way to stall the project.

"Ready to Engage is not interested in stalling tactics per se," said Donkers. "We'd like to see the entire project properly reviewed. If the city hasn't dotted its I's and crossed its T's, as evidenced by the five years of no consultation and apparently no work on this, then we're not going to be surprised by that."

A spokesperson for the city said a preliminary design process on the project is ongoing and it's too early to say if the pipeline will need to be moved.

The city is preparing to hydrovac sections of the pipeline in coming weeks to make sure its location matches up with what is on the plans.

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ES Williams president Graham Plett, left, with Sam Nammoura, and Dmetri Berko after donating a handful of computers to Syrian refugees. CONTRIBUTED

Laptops donated to Syrian refugees

TECHNOLOGY

Support group looking for gently used computers

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

While many take the use of a laptop for granted, incoming Syrian refugees see it as a luxury they can't afford.

But that's something Musicians for Refugees and the Syrian Refugee Support Group (SRSG) are trying to change.

Dmetri Berko, who's facilitating the collection of computers, said these refugees need the computers to help them settle in Canada.

"As far as a tool they're important," he said. "The children need them to do their school work here, and in a lot of cases they're learning English, so the ability to translate the operating system into their native Arabic is really important to them to build a sense of community."

"Also if they're intending on staying long term, which most are, they definitely need access to this stuff to get work and get involved in their communities," he added.

Berko said he and his wife were in Austria this past fall when there was a massive migration of refugees through the area. He said he saw firsthand how important technology like smartphones was in helping the refugees on their journey.

"The one thing that they did have when they didn't have anything else was a smartphone," he said. " It was their connection to their family and friend and they were using social media to get around to appropriate border crossings and transportation."

Sam Nammoura, co-founder of the SRSG, said at first he didn't understand why all the refugees were so desperate for computers.

"For years these families were trapped inside one room or tent, most of the time in complete isolation waiting to hear this phrase: 'The war is over. You can go home,'" he said. "The only ways to hear this was by TV, smartphone and computer, so these three things have become a big part of their psychology."

So far they have received donations from ES Williams, the Lions Club and Fluor, but said the need for gently used computers and laptops is high.

Berko said he's currently wiping the computers and getting them ready to distribute.

Anyone who wishes to donate a computer can visit www.yycsyr.ca and contact the SRSG.

> **If they're intending on staying long term ... they definitely need access to this stuff to get work.**
> Dmetri Berko

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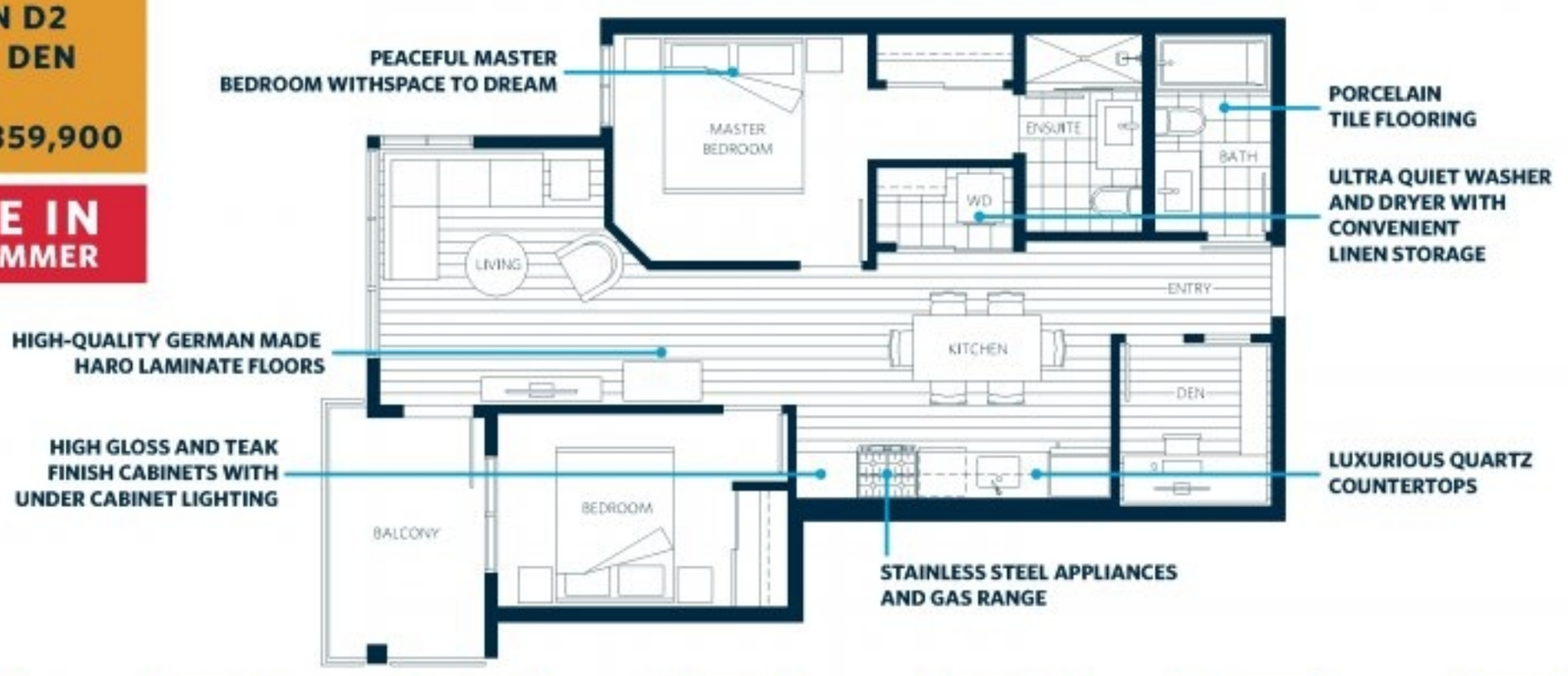

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Conservation groups to snub forum

ENVIRONMENT

Shift toward tourism a big concern ahead of get-together

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Two conservation groups are hoping to send a message to Parks Canada by opting out of a forum in the park.

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Association (CPAWS) and the Bow Valley Naturalists wrote Parks Canada to say they wouldn't take part in the bi-annual Banff Planning Forum this weekend.

The groups feel the forum is shifting away from conservation and towards development and tourism.

"They have a focus on growing the number of visitors," said Katie Morrison of CPAWS. "We support more people coming in the parks — we just need to ensure that's not done at the expense of the nature values."

Colleen Campbell, president of the Bow Valley Naturalists, believes there's such a thing as too many visitors.

"How we can make sure the people who come have a good experience, not just that they get here?" she asked. She questioned Parks Canada's goal of increasing visitors each year by two per cent.

Dave McDonough, Banff field unit superintendent for Parks Canada, said they respect the groups' decision not to attend. He said there are limits to development within the park, and the management plan is up for review in 2020.

Conservation groups are opting out of a planning forum at Banff because they say the meeting has lost its focus. CONTRIBUTED

RELIGION

Church reaffirms mercy killing view

Catholic leaders in Alberta are reiterating the church's opposition to physician-assisted dying.

After the Supreme Court struck down the law against assisted suicide last February, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops said the church opposes any form of mercy killing.

The national organization wants the federal government to ensure that any changes to the law would not force health-care providers or hospitals to be involved in assisted dying.

The group has also asked Ottawa to ensure that the law would not be interpreted differently by each province and territory.

Alberta's bishops want the province to consult with the public before taking any steps to comply with new regulations the federal government must develop by June.

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Run away with Le Cirque de la Nuit

SCENE YYC

Event coming to Flames Central on Saturday night

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

They all get to run away to the circus, at least for one night. The immersive Le Cirque de la Nuit is coming to Flames Central on Saturday. But this isn't your kids' carnival — it's grittier and feels much more like you're attending an after-party.

The idea to launch Cirque stemmed from local creative Jai Benteau — who also goes by DJ Bass Caravan — at a dinner party.

He and 16 others were chatting about how they could turn his circus-like sounds into an experience — something Calgary was lacking, according to Cirque's co-founder Sarah Benteau.

"I just thought it was a cool idea," Sarah recalled. "It's something more than music with just a DJ and people dancing." Those who venture into the tent are expected to clown up so, by the time the venue is filled, you might not be able to easily spot one of Cirque's performers.

Back when the circus troupe was hashing out ideas for its first show, juggler Tony Esteves was packing his bags for Calgary — he had a hard time making ends meet in Ontario as a keynote speaker and coach.

"My twin sister lived in Calgary at the time, and she was like, 'Hey, twin, come here and climb some mountains to get a reset," he said.

The relationship between Esteves and Cirque began over a pint at Bottlescrew Bill's. His waitress, Ashley, mentioned Cirque to break the ice.

"As a professional juggler I was all over it," he said. "I auditioned." He made the cut.

And like Esteves, all of those who work for Cirque have day jobs to pay the bills.

> **We always think, 'How big can this become one day'?**
> Cirque's co-founder Sarah Benteau

But that's what makes participating in the events worthwhile — it means they get to delve into their inner creativity.

"It's always about finding that balance in life," said Julie Mercier, Cirque's performance director. "You might not have that ideal job you love everyday, but you can find a way to incorporate the things you love in your life."

Esteves also teaches people how to juggle when he's coaching at conferences.

"I really do have the best of both worlds," he said. "At first, I didn't really tell people I was in a circus because I thought they would think it's weird. But (Cirque) has got me to really embrace it, and I'm so proud to be part of it."

Benteau said she hopes to one day make Le Cirque de la Nuit her full-time job. The troupes' shows have seen 1,200 attendees, a jump of 800 from the first show.

"We think about the future a lot," she said with laugh. "We always think, 'How big can this become one day?'"

DETAILS

Saturday's show will be winter themed, but that's all organizers will say — they want to maintain the element of surprise. Tickets are available at cirquenuit.com and the event begins at 8 p.m.

Le Cirque de la Nuit is known for its various themes. CONTRIBUTED

YYC EVENTS

FRIDAY
Block Heater
More than 20 artists perform at three Inglewood venues over three days. This winter roots festival hosts local, national and international artists. The three venues are Festival Hall, the Lantern Church and the Ironwood. Showtimes can be found at calgaryfolkfest.com.

SATURDAY
Winterpalooza Polar Run
It's a quick ride around the block in your bare or "bear" essentials and then back to a cosy house for a hot drink or onto a pub for a pint. RSVP required and email polarrun@outlook.com to let them know you are planning to attend and to find out where they plan to meet. Starts at 2:30 p.m

Isolde from the New York City Players
Isolde tells the story of a famous, talented actress. But recently, she's having trouble — she can't remember lines and is slowly losing her memories. To slow this down, Isolde's husband Patrick encourages her to create her dream house. Show's at 8 p.m. at Theatre Junction Grand. Tickets are $45.

SUNDAY
Market Collective
Market Collective returns to the Chinese Cultural Centre. Stroll thee various shops to buy your loved one something, or something for yourself. Admission is $5 and it runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

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SCENE YYC

Rural Ontario cabin just the place to make a new album

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The Sheepdogs needed some peace and quiet to record their latest album, Future Nostalgia.

The Saskatoon-based retro rockers landed on the cover of Rolling Stone in 2011. After an insane 2012, the band set up in Stony Lake, Ont., to record an album that indulges in more guitar solos and vocal harmonies. The Sheepdogs perform at MacEwan Hall with guests at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Metro spoke with frontman Ewan Currie.

I read you guys wanted a homemade approach with Future Nostalgia. Why?

We liked the previous record but I think some of the qualities that represented us really were lost in the shuffle. A homemade style let us bring together all the elements we thought were important, like vocal harmonies and guitar solos.

Does that play into wanting to do what you guys want?

Yeah, I think so. I like to think we make listenable, likeable, catchy songs. At the same time we like to do it on our own terms. I just wanted to be heavily involved in it.

You guys recorded this album in a cabin in Stony Lake, Ont. Did you find you needed something like that?

I think so. We were craving some quiet, relaxing, peaceful vibes because, you know, you get a little crazy when you have so much stimulus all the time. We wanted to focus on making music.

When you guys were there, did you feel any added pressure in the making of Future Nostalgia?

Not so much — any time we do anything, we always put pressure on ourselves to be good. The pressure has always been there and it comes within. We want to be good, and that all starts from within.

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

Midwifery students upbeat about prospects

Though the Alberta Association of Midwives (AAM) has indicated it's worried for future grads entering the field, some Mount Royal University students are quite optimistic about their future job prospects.

Earlier this week, the AAM said no to a proposed funding deal with Alberta Health Services (AHS) in hopes of receiving a new funding model to meet the province's growing demand for midwifery care.

The AAM said AHS offered enough funds to cover 2,774 families for the 2016-17 fiscal year. It's the same number in 2015-16, meaning demand won't be met, said AAM President Nicole Matheson.

It also means a troubling situation for future midwifery grads wanting to work in Alberta, she added.

"Without taking those students into consideration, there's a good possibility that we may lose many of those new graduates this year if we don't have places for them to work in Alberta," Matheson said.

Midwifery student Paige Layden said she's optimistic about her job prospects, given the growing wait-lists for midwives in Alberta.

Student Isabella Sanchez echoed that, but both students said they'd move to a different province if they can't find work when they graduate.

Without an increase in funding, some midwifery clinics — especially in rural Alberta — have indicated they could close.

"I think that having midwifery care in rural populations is extremely valuable," Layden said.

"My hope that midwifery would be able to grow in those areas and that I'd have an opportunity to work there."

Last year, five out of Mount Royal's eight midwifery graduates stayed in Alberta. The program will graduate 12 students this year.

JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

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Take notice that on the following dates, a hearing will take place in the Family and Youth Court, located at the Calgary Court Centre, 601 - 5th Street S.W. in the City of Calgary in the Province of Alberta:

February 18th, 2016 at 9:30 am; and

March 8th, 9th, and 10th, 2016 at 9:30 am.

A Director under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for a Permanent Guardianship Order on a matter in which you are interested. You are requested to be present at the hearing, by order of the Court, your whereabouts being unknown, substitutional service of notice of this hearing was ordered by publication of one notice in this newspaper. You have the right to be represented by legal counsel. An order may be made in your absence in accordance with the practice of the Court.

Contact: MELISSA DIXON
Siksika Family Services
Calgary, Alberta

Telephone: (403) 272-6004

Sam Aiello got a call from Chewbacca. Then another one came. Then they wouldn't stop. Turns out Montreal Canadiens forward Paul Byron was behind the prank. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Hab's prank a real Wookiee sensation

Kijiji users fill friend's inbox with imitations of Chewbacca

Emma Jackson
Metro | In Ottawa

Not long ago, in a city two hours away, a Montreal Canadiens forward lost hard in his fantasy football pool.

"Nnnnrrraaaaaaaggggaaaaaaaahhh!" Paul Byron might have cried as he conceded defeat to his friend, Sam Aiello, back in Ottawa.

It was a frightening loss for someone so steeped in competitive sports, but like any rebel fighter — er, hockey player — Byron wasn't giving up.

He started typing.

Two days later, Aiello got a call from Chewbacca. And another, and then another.

"Nrrrrrraaaaaaaaaahhhhh!"

Chewie wouldn't leave him alone. The famous Wookiee was calling from across the galaxy; from alien planets like Haliburton, Hamilton and London.

"I kept getting these random calls. So I put my number into Google and I knew it was him right away," Aiello said.

"Him" being Ottawa-born Byron — known on the arena battlefields as No. 41 — who had crafted a clever Kijiji ad directing Chewbacca impressions to Aiello's voicemail.

"Winner will be judged and contacted by Friday, February 12th," the ad said. "Reward of $50 will go to the winner. Good luck!"

Aiello got six unsolicited impressions. One, apparently, was from an unidentified CFL linebacker, who discovered the prank through Byron's mutual trainer.

"He thought it was so funny and so he called me," Aiello said.

Reached on Twitter, Byron wouldn't "confirm nor deny the allegation," he wrote, adding that Aiello had it coming. "(He) was caught cheating and had to hear from some (angry) wookiees!"

"He's upset that I beat him in a fantasy football playoff game," Aiello said.

Byron's prankster reputation precedes him.

According to Aiello, Byron filled another friend's voicemail a few years ago by advertising free puppies.

This time, Byron used Chewie because he and Aiello both love Star Wars, Aiello said.

Aiello hasn't decided how he's going to repay his famous friend, but retribution is coming, he promised. He has until the summer, once Byron is home, to figure it out.

Whatever it is, it's got to be good.

> **He's upset that I beat him in fantasy football playoff game.**
> Sam Aiello

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If you think you have what it takes for this position, send your resume and cover letter to hr@metronews.ca no later than February 21st, 2016. PLEASE QUOTE: "Sales Manager, New Business Development – Calgary" in the subject line. We would like to thank all applicants for their interest in this position; however, only those considered for an interview will be contacted. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

'When all that fairy tale stuff falls apart'

MARRIAGE

Family law lawyer warns lovers to get realistic

A marriage expert advises common law couples to talk about what happens if things go south. ISTOCK

One marriage expert has a decidedly anti-cupid message for long-term lovers this Valentine's season: rein in the wooing.

Amid the red roses, candlelit dinners and declarations of love, all couples — particularly those who aren't legally married — are being advised to make time to talk about what happens if things go south.

Elizabeth Abbott, author of A History of Marriage, says couples become so seduced by love itself, they forget there's more to a successful relationship and some of it is, well, unromantic.

"It's real life. It's living together, it's having a job, it's spending money," says Abbott, a historian and senior research associate at the University of Toronto.

"A little less romance, please."

In no situation is that more important than in common-law marriages — especially if the love affair ends or if one person dies.

John-Paul Boyd, executive director of the Calgary-based Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, says many people in common-law relationships are unaware of their rights and entitlements or lack thereof.

"I think people should have the right to have the relationship that they want. The problem is that people are, as I learned from being a family law lawyer, woefully ignorant of their rights under the law," says Boyd, adding that married couples can be equally nescient.

"No one gives a thought to what will happen when all that fairy tale stuff falls apart," she says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WOOD AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Trudeau, UN warm up

UNITED NATIONS

Ban Ki-moon praises PM for his efforts

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon praised Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for last year's climate-change charm offensive in Paris, but urged him to spend more of Canada's wealth on the world's poorest people.

The usually staid Ban appeared almost gleeful at times Thursday as he took Trudeau up on his offer to re-engage with the UN during a packed, day-long visit to Ottawa, including high-level meetings on Parliament Hill and a feel-good assembly at a boisterous local high school auditorium.

"I am here to declare that the United Nations enthusiastically welcomes this commitment," Ban declared. He praised not only Trudeau's climate-change advocacy, but his desire to return Canada to its peacekeeping roots — which, he said, Canada helped create under external affairs minister Lester Pearson in the 1950s.

Trudeau has stressed re-orienting Canada toward world organizations — the UN in particular — as part of a new multilateral foreign policy that often tries to invoke the so-called Pearson-era golden age of diplomacy.

Trudeau confirmed that Canada is looking to win a seat on the Security Council as part of a move to renew its relationship with the world body.

"We are going to evaluate the opportunities for Canada to mount a successful bid," he said.

Trudeau said he told Ban that Canada wants to be involved as a peacemaker.

During the tenure of successive Liberal and Conservative governments, Canada's commitment to UN peacekeeping has dropped sharply since the 1990s, when the country deployed thousands of blue-helmeted peacekeepers.

"I reiterated the commitment of our government to strengthen the UN's ability to maintain international peace and security," Trudeau said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 **Trudeau has told Ban Ki-moon** he hopes to win Canada a seat on the UN Security Council. CHRIS ROUSSAKIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
2 **Ban Ki-moon joins Trudeau at a press conference a**t Parliament Hill in Ottawa. CHRIS ROUSSAKIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
3 **The two leaders agreed to further co-operation.** ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coun. Bernard Cameron.
METROLAND MEDIA FILE

ALMONTE, ONT.

Councillor dies after shooting

A woman is recovering in hospital after being shot in an incident that killed her father, a councillor in a small eastern Ontario town, and left another man injured.

Sarah Cameron was taken to hospital with what police described as life-threatening injuries on Thursday morning after a shooting at her father's home in Almonte, Ont., about 50 kilometres west of Ottawa.

"It is with profound sorrow and shock that I confirm that my colleague and friend, Coun. Bernard Cameron, died today in a violent incident," Shaun McLaughlin, mayor of Mississippi Mills, Ont., said Thursday.

OPP said officers responding to a 911 call in the small community 50 kilometres west of Ottawa at 7:30 Thursday morning found a man's body and two people in life-threatening condition following a "serious incident." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ghomeshi verdict to come March 24, judge says

Justice William Horkins announced March 24 as the verdict date after lawyers wrapped up their closing arguments in Jian Ghomeshi's sex-assault trial.

The defence argued three accusers were unreliable witnesses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deficit expected to grow

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the upcoming 2016-17 budget will show a deficit larger than the Liberals' promised $10-billion shortfall cap.

Ottawa's goal is to generate the growth that will benefit the entire economy, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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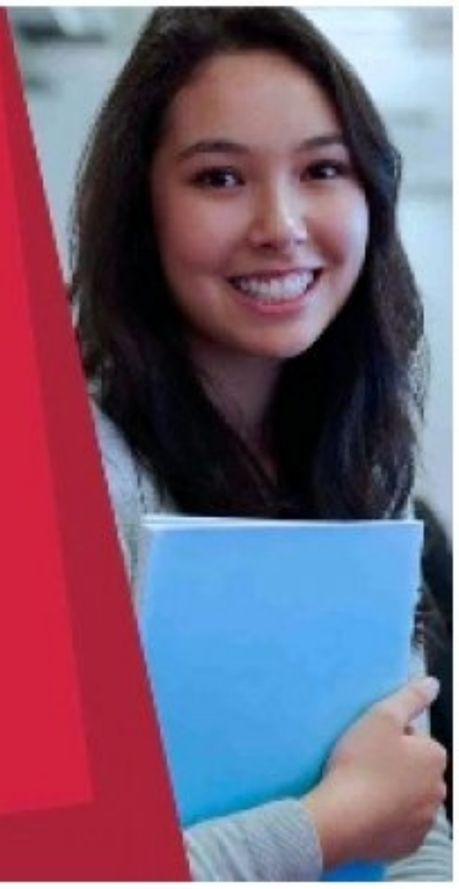

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Scientists find gravity wave proof

THEORETICAL PHYSICS

Discovery offers evidence of elusive Einstein theory

Scientists announced Thursday they had discovered direct evidence of gravitational waves, one of Einstein's most important — and elusive — predictions.

They captured the incredibly faint signal by recording the sound of two black holes colliding, an event that occurred 1.3 billion years ago.

"We did it," said David Reitze, executive director of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).

"That's the story today. But what's really exciting is what comes next."

Gravitational waves are one of the critical predictions of Albert Einstein's Theory of General Relativity — they are ripples caused by mass moving through the fabric of space-time. With energetic enough movements, those ripples might be big enough for us to measure.

"It's one of the most exciting predictions of the theory," said Luis Lehner of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics.

Yet when scientists celebrated general relativity's 100-year anniversary late last year, no one had yet reported a direct detection of the waves.

The discovery of gravitational waves is far more significant than simply confirming Einstein's predictions.

"It's momentous ... it marks the beginning of our ability to peek at the universe through a completely new window," said Lehner. "It's as if the floodgates are about to be opened."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MIGRANTS NATO DEPLOYS WARSHIPS TO END SMUGGLING OPERATION Migrants and refugees queue for a meal distributed by volunteers at the passengers terminal in the port of Piraeus upon their arrival from the island of Lesbos on Wednesday. In response to Europe's gravest refugee crisis since the Second World War, NATO ordered three warships to sail immediately Thursday to the Aegean Sea to help end the deadly smuggling of asylum-seekers across the waters from Turkey to Greece. LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ALAN KURDI

Accused traffickers go on trial

Two alleged people-smugglers are on trial in Turkey accused of causing the death of three-year-old Syrian migrant boy Alan Kurdi and four other people.

The image of the boy — his lifeless body lying face down on a beach in Bodrum — galvanized world attention on the refugee crisis, graphically illustrating the magnitude of the journeys and suffering migrants risk.

Syrian nationals Muwafaka Alabash and Asem Alfrhad face up to 35 years in prison each if convicted of the charges of human smuggling and causing the deaths of five people "through deliberate negligence."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alan, left, and his brother Galib Kurdi in an undated photo. HO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NIGERIA

Teenager abandons suicide-bomb attack on refugee camp

Strapped with a booby-trapped vest and sent by the extremist Boko Haram group to kill as many people as possible, the young teenage girl tore off the explosives and fled as soon as she was out of sight of her handlers.

Her two companions, however, completed their grisly mission and walked into a crowd of hundreds at Dikwa refugee camp in northeast Nigeria and blew themselves up, killing 58 people.

Later found by local self-defence forces, the girl's tearful account is one of the first indications that at least some of the child bombers used by Boko Haram are aware that they are about to die and kill others.

"She said she was scared because she knew she would kill people. But she was also frightened of going against the instructions of the men who brought her to the camp," said Modu Awami, a self-defence fighter who helped question the girl.

She was among thousands held captive for months by the extremists, according to Algoni Lawan, a spokesman for the Ngala local government area that has many residents at the camp and who is privy to information about her interrogation by security forces.

"She confessed to our security operatives that she was worried if she went ahead and carried out the attack that she might kill her own father, who she knew was in the camp," he said on Thursday.

The girl tried to persuade her companions to abandon the mission, he said, "but she said she could not convince the two others to change their minds."

> She was worried if she went ahead and carried out the attack that she might kill her father, who she knew was in the camp.
>
> Algoni Lawan, local government spokesperson

Her story was corroborated when she led soldiers to the unexploded vest, Awami said Thursday, speaking by phone from the refugee camp, which holds 50,000 people who have fled Boko Haram's Islamic uprising.

The girl is in custody and has given officials information about other planned bombings that has helped them increase security at the camp, said Satomi Ahmed, chairman of the Borno State Emergency Management Agency.

Boko Haram's 6-year-old Islamic insurgency has killed 20,000 people, made 2.5 million homeless and spread across Nigeria's borders.

The extremists have kidnapped thousands of people and the increasing number of suicide bombings by girls and children have raised fears they are turning some captives into weapons. An army bomb disposal expert said some suicide bombs are detonated remotely, so the carriers may not have control over when the bomb goes off.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sanders and Clinton in Milwaukee. TOM LYNN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clinton hits at price tag of Sanders vows

U.S.

Presidential hopefuls duke it out in Milwaukee

Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders tangled over the price tag and practicality of his plans for expanded government programs in Thursday night's Democratic presidential debate, with Clinton accusing her rival of making promises "that cannot be kept."

Clinton and Sanders split the first two states in the state-by-state Democratic primary battle, setting the stage for a long fight for the party's nomination. After contests in overwhelmingly white states, the race now turns to states with more racially diverse populations.

While Sanders has energized young people with his call for free tuition at public colleges and universities, as well as a government-run, single-payer health-care system, Clinton said those proposals come with unrealistic price tags. And she accused Sanders of trying to shade the truth about what she said would be a 40 per cent increase in the size of the federal government in order to implement his policies.

"I feel like we have to level with people," she said.

Sanders didn't put a price on his policies, but neither did he shy away from the notion that he wants to expand the size of government.

"In my view, the government of a democratic society has a moral responsibility to play a vital role in making sure all our people have a decent standard of living," Sanders said.

The head-to-head contest was pointed, yet polite — a contrast to what has become an increasingly heated contest on the campaign trail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH

Zika vaccine testing goal 12 months away

Brazil has signed an agreement with the University of Texas Medical Branch to develop a vaccine against the Zika virus, adding the goal is for the vaccine to be ready for testing within 12 months.

Health Minister Marcelo Castro said at a news conference that the government will invest $1.9 million in the research, which will be jointly conducted by the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and the Evandro Chagas Institute in the Amazonian city of Belem.

He said the Health Ministry also has reached partnerships with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is looking to work with pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline because of its role developing a vaccine against Ebola.

Brazil's Zika outbreak has become a crisis since researchers linked the mosquito-borne virus to a surge in rare birth defects.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker fumigates a home in Mexico against the Aedes aegypti mosquito to prevent spread of Zika. PEDRO PARDO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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CYRUS WESLEY

Take notice that on February 19th, 2016 at 9:30 AM o'clock in the forenoon; a hearing will take place in the Family and Youth Court, located at the Calgary Courts Centre, 601 - 5th St. S.W. in the City of Calgary, in the Province of Alberta. A Director under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for a Custody Order and a Permanent Guardianship Order on a matter in which you are interested. You are requested to be present at the hearing, by order of the Court, your whereabouts being unknown, substitutional service of notice of this hearing was ordered by publication of one notice in this newspaper. You have the right to be represented by legal counsel. An order may be made in your absence in accordance with the practice of the Court.

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Beer drinkers feel pinch

BREWERS

Weak economy hurting sales in oil regions: Molson Coors

Molson Coors Brewing Co. says a sluggish economy and higher food prices are affecting beer drinking in Canada's oil-rich provinces.

The Denver and Montreal-based company said the beer industry has seen customers, particularly in Alberta, shift from higher-priced premium to economy brands.

Sales volumes have also been slipping in Alberta, as well as in the oil-producing provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan.

Molson said its sales volume decreased 5.4 per cent across Canada in the fourth quarter. In January, sales to retailers for at-home consumption fell by more than 10 per cent, or by almost nine per cent excluding the impact of the termination of an agreement to distribute Miller brands.

Part of that decrease can be attributed to macro-economic factors, including higher food prices, said Stewart Glendinning, chief executive of Molson Coors Canada.

"The consumer is under pressure," he said Thursday during a conference call on the company's fourth-quarter and 2015 results.

"And if you add to that the fact that consumer debt in Canada is at an all-time high, it's made for quite a difficult recipe in some of those provinces."

Sales volumes for Coors Light were also reduced in Quebec by the brewer's decision to raise prices for its flagship brand.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Molson Coors says a slow economy and high food prices are prompting beer drinkers, particularly in Alberta, to shift from higher-priced premium to economy brands. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROLL UP THE RIM

Contest upsets users of reusable mugs

It's a national pastime each winter, as Canadians across the country eagerly "Roll Up the Rim" to win prizes with their morning cups of Tim Hortons coffee.

But now, thousands of reusable mug owners are calling on the popular chain to let them play without being forced to take a paper cup.

"Customers should not be forced to choose between an environmentally conscious option and participating in Roll Up the Rim," a petition at Change.org reads. By Thursday morning, more than 14,000 people had signed on.

The petition was first launched last year by Ally Fraser of Beaumont, Alta. In a post this week, she said she presented the petition to Tim Hortons' corporate head office but did not get a positive response.

"They dismissed our concerns. This year, with so much support, maybe they will finally listen," she wrote.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Environmentally conscious customers want Tim Hortons to expand contest rules. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STAR WARS

Producers sued over actor's broken leg

British health authorities have charged the producers of Star Wars: The Force Awakens with four breaches of workplace health and safety laws over an on-set accident in which Harrison Ford, who was 71 at the time, broke his leg. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harrison Ford. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS

Your essential daily news

Weekend, February 12-15, 2016

More than friends
A 2015 study of 522 Hungarians found men and women felt more love, and more jealousy, if their relationship was "Facebook official."

THE BIG THING

CITIES of LOVE

The photo-sharing site Instagram is practically blinding at this time of year with so many shiny rocks on display. Among the 80 million images uploaded daily, the "#Shesaidyes!" ring picture is a contemporary classic. But, according to social media at least, it turns out there are significant geographical differences in regards to where people go to find love — and seal the deal. The U.K. engagement-ring company Ingle & Rhode analyzed 250,000 Instagram photos tagged with #isaidyes, #proposal, #proposed or #heproposed and cross-referenced them with geographic coordinates to rank where the perfect places are for popping the question. Two Canadian cities made the top 25: Vancouver and Toronto. (Famously romantic Paris was 15th, although there was no hashtag search *en Français)*. Where would you stage a romantic rendezvous in Calgary? The Calgary Tower? Canmore park? Or would you and your Valentine venture to one of these love-tastic locations to put a ring on it?

1. New York City

2. Los Angeles

3. Seattle

4. Miami

5. Chicago

6. Toronto

11. Vancouver

15. Paris

metroview

How love — and Canada — helped me rein in my drinking

Like many of my adolescent peers in Dublin, my relationship with alcohol began young. At 13, I made a pact with friends to smuggle booze from our homes to a secret seaside location, where we would all get drunk for the first time.

Most of my pals brought soft stuff; I came armed with Bacardi white. We proceeded to grimace and gurn through the forbidden libations, pulling hard off our cigarettes to mask the taste. I ended my day violently ill and with an enduring aversion to Bacardi.

This embarrassing introduction should have made me cautious. Nope — my mischievous side, my teenage stamina and my country's culture kept me imbibing through my teens and 20s.

By my late 20s, the recession was kicking in, work at the newspaper wasn't plentiful and I'd just painfully parted ways with a good woman — a recipe for an extended period of self-destruction. Four nights a week, I would quaff wine with dinner, followed by a feed of cans, go clubbing and then wobble home to bed. After three years of this, my newspaper job finally ended for good and I decided to leave Ireland in search of stable employment.

I zeroed in on Toronto: cold, yes, but with hot summers. And no Dublin-like rain. I arrived in wintertime and resumed drinking heavily. Fortunately, I met a lovely local girl, Suzi, who showed me the ropes and, eventually, became my fiancée. Initially we happily boozed and clubbed in tandem, but she soon tired of the binge drinking, went on a serious health kick and eventually became vegan. I did not follow suit. Guilt pangs from booze-ups resulted in me trying to balance my habit with jogging, but I'd often find myself taking premature wheezy walks home.

After a few months I had a job at newspaper and was socializing with workmates. I'd get hammered while my colleagues paced themselves. I admired the Canadians' humble way, but the "craic"-loving side of me yearned for the mayhem of a Dublin night out.

Soon, however, the Toronto approach took hold (it helped that Ontario liquor stores close at 9 on the weekends). Meanwhile, my fiancée's lifestyle and ultra-healthy diet were rubbing off. I was exercising successfully and feeling better. And then I returned to Ireland. Back in Dublin for nine days, I drank eight of those days, got drunk on six and puked on two.

I returned to Canada a husk of a man, resolving to halt my partying ways. I challenged myself to a dry January and made it. If I hadn't moved here or met Suzi, I'd still be drinking too much back home. So thanks, Canada, for helping me to rein in this tricky vice. I'll occasionally drink to that!

Eoin Weldon is a Toronto-based writer and editor.

Read more of Eoin's story at metronews.ca

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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION GOSSIP

Ryan Reynolds: Acting skills unmasked

Ryan Reynolds plays the mouthy antiheroic comic book superhero Deadpool in the eighth installment of the X-Men film series. CONTRIBUTED

A MAN OF MANY PARTS

Deadpool star not just a hot dude with 'tude

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Look! Up on the screen! It's Blade: Trinity. It's The Proposal. It's Ryan Reynolds!

Yes, it's Ryan Reynolds, strange visitor from Vancouver who came to Hollywood with powers and abilities beyond those of mortal men. He speaks faster than a speeding bullet! He can leap tall scripts in a single bound! He's more versatile than a roomful of Sexiest Men Alive!

I've paraphrased the famous opening of Superman, even though Reynolds has never played Superman in the movies. Careerwise, however, he has been a super man, leaping from genre to genre, piecing together an IMDB page so varied it'll make your head spin.

This weekend brings us another exciting episode in the adventures of Ryan Reynolds.

In Deadpool he's a former Special Forces operative subjected to an experimental treatment that gifts him with regenerative healing power and increased agility. Unfortunately it also leaves him filled with rage; thirsty for revenge against the doctor who changed his life. The character's greatest superpower, according to Reynolds, "is annoying the s— out of people."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Zoolander 2	★
Deadpool	★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

It's not the first time the 39-year-old actor has played someone with superpowers. It's not even the first time he's played Deadpool. That character debuted in X-Men Origins: Wolverine and he starred as Captain Excellent in Paper Man, the darkly heroic Hannibal King in Blade: Trinity as well as donning the super-tight tights of the Green Lantern.

When he isn't battling crime, however, Reynolds has been more adventurous in his roles than people give him credit. Peppered throughout his major Hollywood successes like The Proposal have been roles like The Amityville Horror's psychologically unstable father, Woman in Gold's relentless lawyer, and the crackhead Gary in the thriller The Nines.

Successful or not, those movies showcased a performer looking to stretch his acting muscles (and not just display his prodigious ab muscles). Here are some other Reynold's roles that show his super-versatility:

The Voices: Reynolds plays the wholesome-looking Jerry, an eager to please factory worker with a crush on the cute accountant upstairs. When she stands him up for a date it becomes apparent Jerry has serious problems. As bodies pile up he grapples with voices in his head that tell him to do terrible things. Kitschy, strange and decidedly off kilter, The Voices has funny moments but revolves around Reynolds's winningly odd performance.

Buried: Reynolds is a civilian truck driver in Iraq, taken hostage, buried underground, who will be left to die unless a ransom is paid. The entire movie happens inside the four walls of a coffin with only Reynolds and a cell phone on display. Unable to rely on his usual comic timing and bulging muscles, Reynolds hits a career high, keeping the audience intrigued for most of the 90-minute running time.

The Change-Up: Starring Reynolds and Jason Bateman, this film is like several movies in one. It's part gross-out comedy, part heart tugger and all switcheroo. The set-up is Freaky Friday simple; the two leads swap personalities but it works because Bateman adds a little hyper Van Wilder inflection to his speech and Reynolds drops his energy a few notches to match Bateman's more laconic style. Both are likeable actors, with charm and charisma to burn.

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LEFT: Sony Pictures and the Vatican are boosting **Risen, about events after Jesus's crucifixion.** **RIGHT:** A satanic group is promoting on **The Witch, for its "Satanic values"** · CONTRIBUTED

The saint and the sinner on screens

MOVIES

It's a Vatican versus Satanist smackdown at the pictures

A U.S. satanic group is looking to make February an even more hellish month for movies than usual.

The Satanic Temple, an atheistic activist group claiming international membership that includes "thousands" of Canadians, is this week launching the horror movie The Witch through a four-city proclamation of "a new Satanic era."

At the same time, Sony Pictures and the Vatican are jointly boosting Risen, a faith-based biblical thriller starring Joseph Fiennes as a Roman military leader tasked with finding the crucified body of Jesus Christ. Fiennes and his family met with Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square last week before a screening of the film at the Vatican.

The Witch and Risen both open Feb. 19, adding a note of competition to a month usually devoted to Oscar nominee holdovers and studio castoffs.

The Satanic Temple is playing up the contrast between The Witch and Risen, although Jex Blackmore, the national spokesperson for the temple, says the Feb. 19 release date for both movies is "a coincidence." (Sony Pictures offered no comment.)

The main push by Blackmore's group is to promote its view that The Witch, a Sundance-awarded film by writer/director Robert Eggers, represents a "transformative Satanic experience" for moviegoers. Set in 17th-century New England, the movie stars Anya Taylor-Joy as the scapegoated teen

Jex Blackmore of The Satanic Temple. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

member of a Puritan family torn by supernatural forces.

On Wednesday, the Satanic Temple begins "the Sabbat Cycle," a four-city U.S. tour — New York, Los Angeles, Austin, Detroit — combining screenings of The Witch with "interactive performances" aimed at broadening public acceptance of "Satanic values."

Created in 2013, the Satanic Temple does not espouse supernatural beliefs, Blackmore says, nor does it promote a belief in the "personal Satan" of religious teaching, literature and pop culture.

The group sees itself as a politically active agency espousing individualism, self-expression and liberty, which includes the right to offend others in a non-violent fashion.

Blackmore said film distributor A24 sent her a copy of The Witch and after viewing "this incredibly powerful film" she agreed to support it.

"Clearly, this film is a fantasy, but it is symbolic of a proclamation of personal independence and a criticism of theocracy," she said.

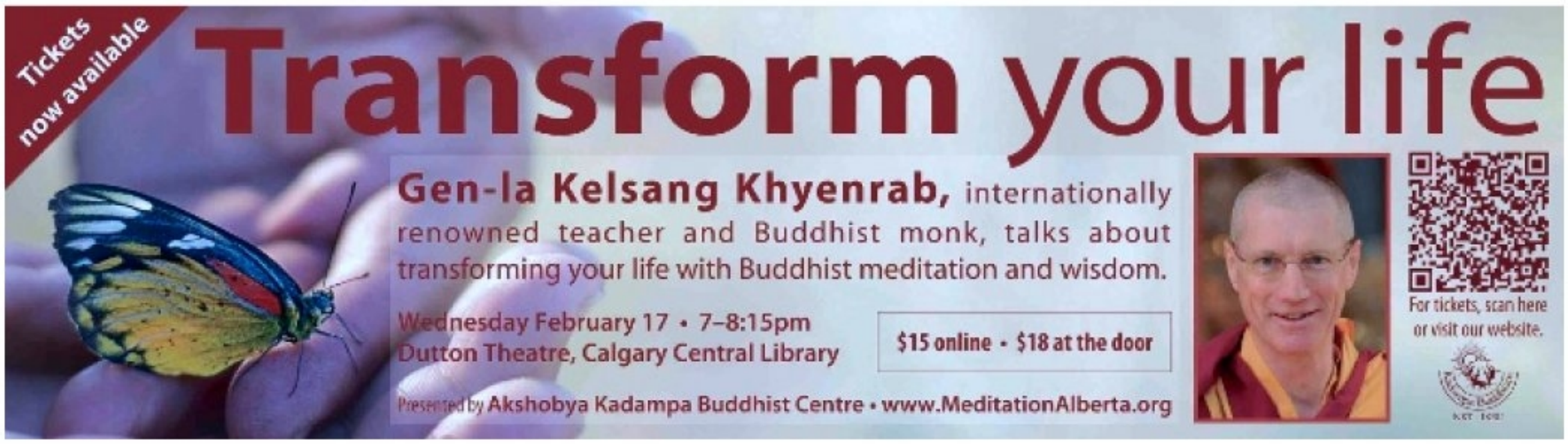
"We believe this will awaken within the viewer a fresh appreciation for the separation of church and state, as well as a sense of empathy for those who are branded pariahs. The viewer may even relate to the protagonist personally, and be inspired to act to liberate themselves from an oppressive or dangerous cultural or religious context."

Blackmore isn't concerned about people who may choose to avoid or boycott The Witch due to its connection to the Satanic Temple and her group isn't out to oppose other religions.

"We do not have any interest in altering our position on important matters to benefit the superstitions of some. We do not see ourselves in opposition to any other religion. However, we oppose oppressive social and cultural ideologies. Our aim is simply to affirmatively promote and protect Satanic values for our community."

The Satanic Temple has 14 chapters, including ones in Italy and Finland, said Blackmore, a Detroit artist and activist who declined to reveal membership numbers. She said there are no immediate plans to create a Canadian chapter, however "thousands" of Canadians have joined as individuals.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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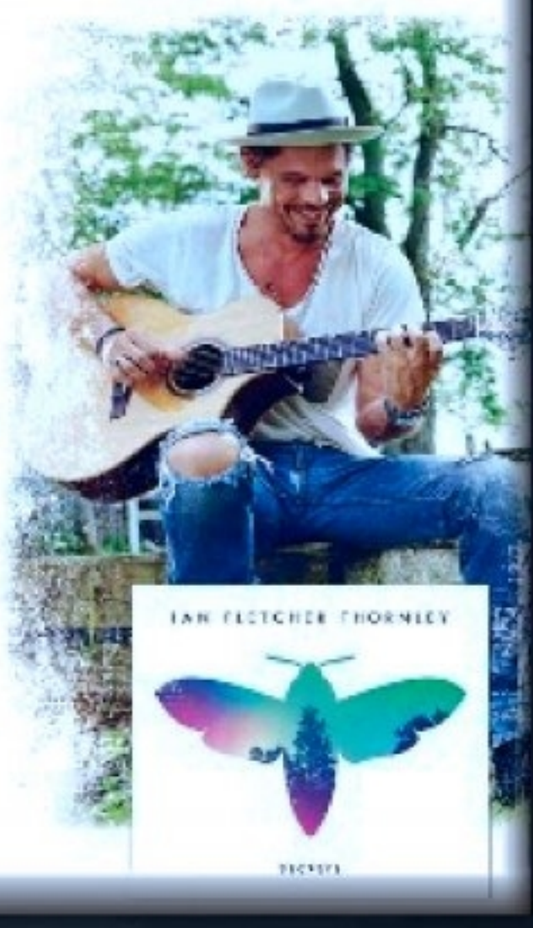

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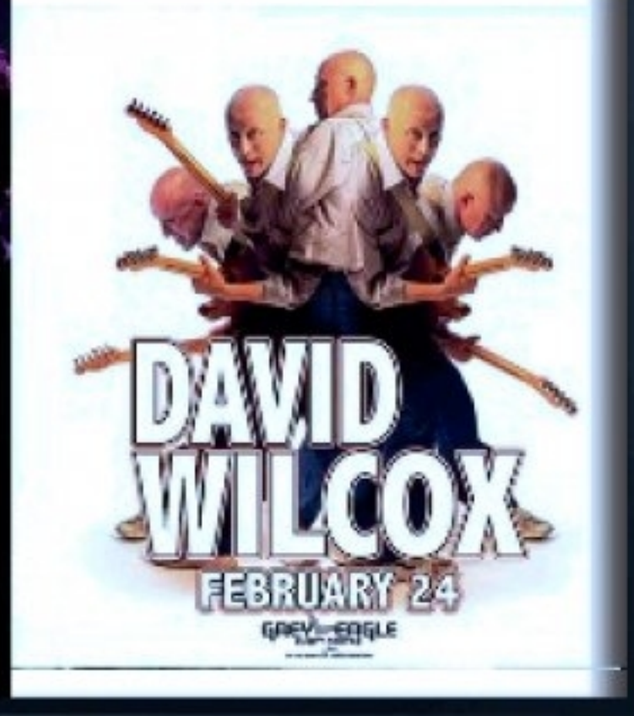

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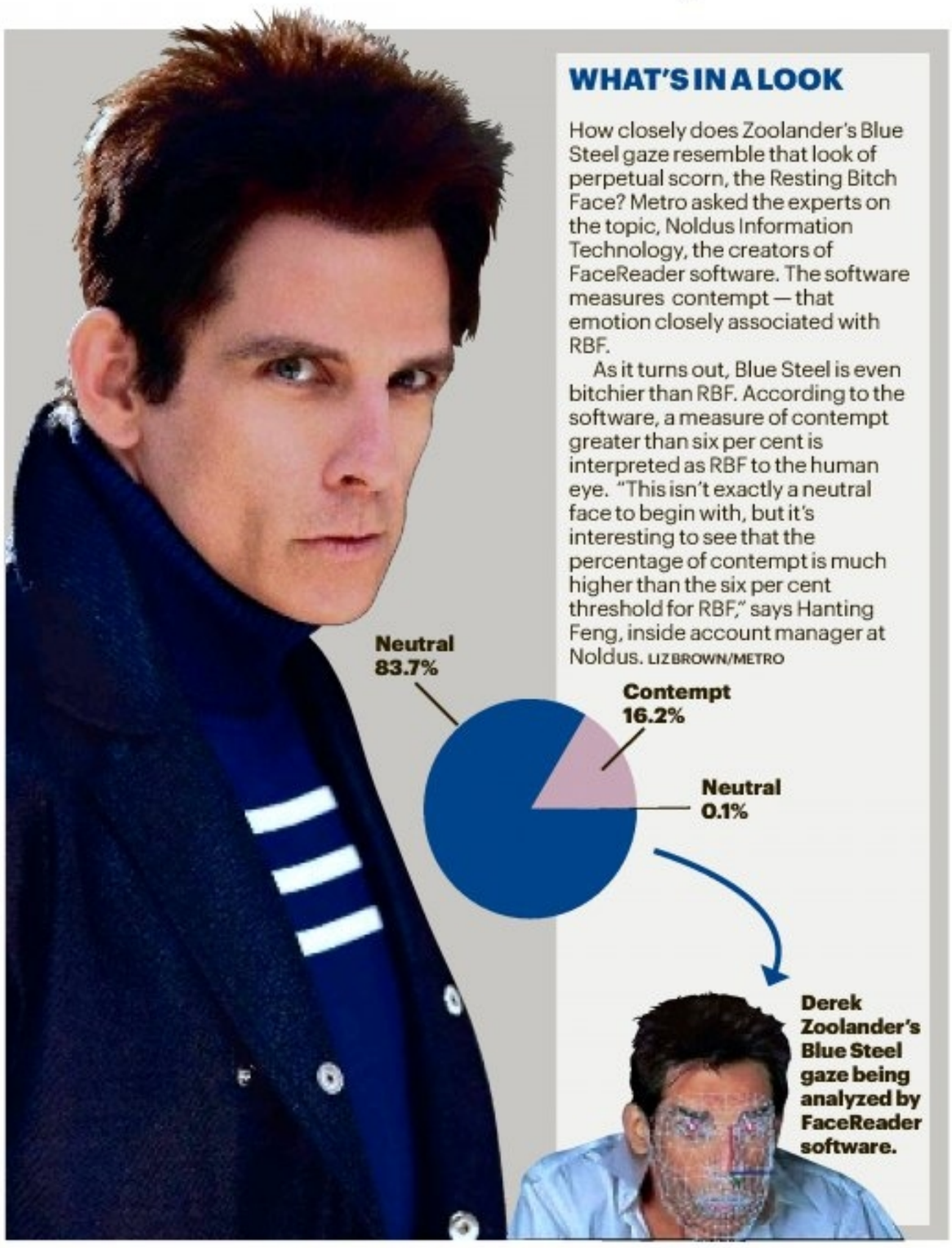


WHAT'S IN A LOOK

How closely does Zoolander's Blue Steel gaze resemble that look of perpetual scorn, the Resting Bitch Face? Metro asked the experts on the topic, Noldus Information Technology, the creators of FaceReader software. The software measures contempt — that emotion closely associated with RBF.

As it turns out, Blue Steel is even bitchier than RBF. According to the software, a measure of contempt greater than six per cent is interpreted as RBF to the human eye. "This isn't exactly a neutral face to begin with, but it's interesting to see that the percentage of contempt is much higher than the six per cent threshold for RBF," says Hanting Feng, inside account manager at Noldus. LIZ BROWN/METRO

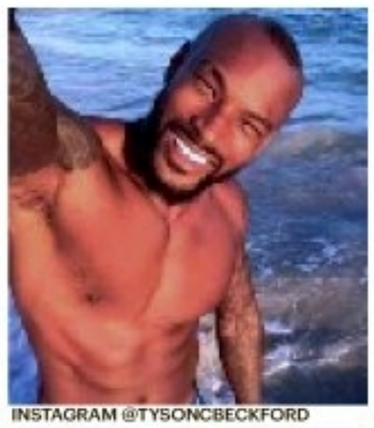
It's been 15 years since Derek Zoolander's really, really, ridiculously good-looking face graced the silver screen. But he's back this weekend, and he's middle aged, even dabbling in the anti-aging cream market with a NYC-based Kiehl's pop-up shop called the Derek Zoolander Center for People Who Don't Age Good. A Metro investigation dug up a few more middle-aged male models and discovered that, unlike the rest of us, they do age good. LIZ BROWN/METRO

TYSON BECKFORD

Age: 45

Career: Beckford was discovered in New York City and recruited to be the face of Ralph Lauren Polo in 1993. He was also in the original Zoolander.

Still got it: Just last year Beckford was showing some skin as celebrity host of the Chippendales at the Rio in Las Vegas. With abs of steel and a face as soft as a baby's behind, Beckford isn't shelving his strut any time soon.

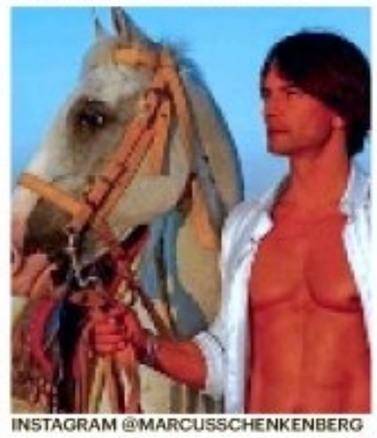

INSTAGRAM @TYSONCBECKFORD

MARCUS SCHENKENBERG

Age: 47

Career: Schenkenberg gained notoriety with his nearly nude in the shower shoot for Calvin Klein in 1991. In the early 2000s he was linked to Pamela Anderson and Jessica Simpson.

Still got it: A cursory glance of his Instagram account will morph into an afternoon creep session involving abs, gratuitous gym shots and shirtless shoots with horses. It'll leave you wondering what the specifics of his Faustian bargain might be.


INSTAGRAM @MARCUSSCHENKENBERG

MARK VANDERLOO

Age: 47

Career: Vanderloo is the man upon which Derek Zoolander's character is loosely based (The Zoolander name is said to be a riff on Vanderloo). You've likely seen him looking chic for Hugo Boss, where he's been one of their main models since 2005.

Still got it: Do you like a strong jaw? Do you like weathering in all the right places? Do you like a man who looks like your friend's super hot dad you secretly lusted after in high school? We thought so.

INSTAGRAM @BUGATTI

REACTION

Metro readers respond: Show us your best 'Blue Steel'

I think we all use this look to make our cheek bones look extra fleek. — Andrea Llewellyn

From left: Dyna Tuytel, Kat Gajewska, and Andrea Llewellyn of Calgary

When would you use this look? For the paparazzi **Who are you trying to impress?** The media

Ramtin Alikhani, Ottawa

I opted for #LeTigre. Gotta keep #Magnum under wraps until it's ready.

Nicholas Mizera, Toronto

This is my daughter Piper at two months old showing her best Blue Steel. Her uncle argues she is actually doing Le Tigre!

Kelly Macdonald, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

EK gives Blue Steel a try. #Zoolander

George, Toronto

It's a fine line between 'blue steel' and duck face, and I may have crossed that line.

Alana Beck, Halifax

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Who needs a boyfriend anyway?

Given the film's title, it's not unreasonable to expect the stars of How to Be Single to have a few thoughts on, well, how to be single. The leading foursome bring a variety of experience to the topic, from Leslie Mann, who's been married for two decades, to Dakota Johnson, who is currently living the single life in New York City. Alison Brie, meanwhile, recently got engaged to beau Dave Franco, and Rebel Wilson thinks it might be time to rethink the whole "eternally single" thing. Here's where they stand on the topic **NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO**

1 LESLIE MANN — "I've been married for 20 years. I can't even remember anymore being single," Mann admits. "I had so much shame when I was single. I would make out with a lot of people but I would never have sex because then I would feel bad. But I made out with everyone. And some dry-humping."

Mann is pleased, though, with the state of the world for single women today versus when she was in her 20s. "I'm excited for my daughters to see the movie because I love the message," she says. "This is going to sound weird but I tell my daughter Maude, who is 18 now, she's an adult, but I always tell her, 'Just show off your boobs! You have great boobs. And it doesn't get any better. I know what happens. Just enjoy them now, enjoy this time.'"

2 DAKOTA JOHNSON — "I am a single person. I love that I'm alone all the time. I love sleeping next to no one. I really don't want to be cuddled. I love to have dinner by myself," she says with a laugh. But seriously, though. "No, I actually like spending time by myself. I kind of cherish my time alone. I like solitude, so that's nice. But then being single also sucks sometimes — because you're single."

Johnson appreciates that How to Be Single shows women in a more liberated, sex-positive light. "With this film, I was attracted to the positive outlook on women, especially, exploring relationships with different people and being confident and comfortable and strong," she says. "That was the kind of thing that was appealing to me, because that's what's real, and it's honest and there's nothing to be ashamed of. That's what single women do."

3 REBEL WILSON — "I'm, like, eternally single, and I think I like it a bit too much, and I need to be more open to the possibilities of love," Wilson muses. "I'm very independent, I always have been. I went to an all-girls school and we were really taught to be independent. Although, one teacher did try to teach us how to marry a rich man and kill him. The science teacher, she would tell us, like, how to dampen the sheets and stuff, and sometimes we'd really listen to that. But we were always encouraged to go out and live our own lives. And from my own mother, as well, she's like, 'Don't have kids too young, because it will ruin your life.'"

Sound advice, though Wilson is starting to think that maybe she's had her fun already. "Now I'm at the point where things are going so well that I'm trying to, like, look for the right person. I just haven't found him in Hollywood. Surprise, surprise," she says. "I don't like smoking. And then maybe, like, lying? When they say they didn't have a fiancée, and their teammates supported that, and then I find out a few months later they did in fact have a fiancée back in their hometown? That's a bit bad. Yeah."

4 ALISON BRIE — "I think my favourite part about being single is just being able to do whatever you want, the freedom. You are your own person," Brie says. "Aside from your close friends and your family, you don't have to always be thinking about maybe whatever move you're making, how that is going to affect the person in your life. You kind of can fly by the seat of your pants. That's what I really liked about being single. It felt very fun and spontaneous."

That doesn't mean she didn't have some lousy times out before settling down. "Any of the bad dates I've had involved one or more parties drinking too much," she says. "When I was single, I don't think I would ever just end a date mid-date even if I were not having a good time. I'm sort of like, 'Well I want to be polite, I should stick it out. I'll just hang and dance with this drunk guy.' And that's a s—ty thing. I think a lot of the time women feel like we don't want to be rude, we don't want the guy to think we're a b—, so we entertain a lot of bad behaviour."

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Pakistani filmmaker exposes honour killings

SHARMEEN OBAID-CHINOY

Gripping doc A Girl in the River receives Oscar nod

When Saba Qaiser was 19 years old, her uncle and father shot her in the head, stuffed her in a bag and threw into a river to die. They said she had shamed her family when she married the boy of her choice.

She crawled from the water, severely wounded. It was pitch black. She grabbed hold of the scraggly bushes on the river's edge and pulled herself to safety. In the distance, Saba could see only the single headlight of a motorcycle and then a gas station.

"Save me. Save me," she pleaded to the doctor who eventually treated her.

Saba is the hero of the Oscar-nominated documentary A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness, by Pakistani filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy.

It explores the practice of honour killings, where fathers, husbands and brothers kill their wives, daughters or sisters for shaming them, accusing them of "stealing" their honour. The offence could be as minor as a misinterpreted look in the direction of a boy, sitting too long in the presence of an unknown man or in Saba's case, marrying a man of her choice.

An average of 1,000 women are killed each year in so-called "honour killings," according to estimates used by many women's rights groups in Pakistan. Most often, men who kill female relatives are not prosecuted, because Pakistani law allows relatives of the victim to forgive the killer, a provision based in Islamic law.

Pakistan's Oscar-winning filmmaker, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy chats with colleagues at her office in Karachi. SHAKIL ADIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Since in these cases the killer is also a family member, the relatives almost always forgive him.

"It is pre-meditated, cold-blooded murder. You hunt them down and you shoot them," Obaid-Chinoy said. "It should be decided (in court) as a killing."

Obaid-Chinoy wants the law changed and wants Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to go beyond just condemning honour killings.

She would like to screen her movie at the prime minister's residence with "all the stakeholders" present — politicians, judiciary, police, victims, and activists — in hopes of bringing change.

In 2012, Obaid-Chinoy won an Oscar for her documentary Saving Face, depicting the suffering of victims of acid attacks — women disfigured by acid thrown in their faces, usually by men they have spurned or refused in marriage.

In A Girl in the River, Obaid-Chinoy began filming Saba soon after she was attacked in 2014 for defying her parents to marry her beloved, Qaiser. Saba's bravery — and the sweetness of their relationship — plays out on screen even as she recovers in the hospital, her face deeply gouged by the bullet fired by her uncle.

The Oscars are on Feb. 28 and A Girl in the River will be aired March 7 on HBO.

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Oscars likely to lose more black viewers

The largest black audience for the Academy Awards over the last dozen years came in 2005, when Chris Rock was host and Jamie Foxx and Morgan Freeman won the top male acting awards.

Rock will be back as host this year, but it's an open question how many black viewers will be tuning in. A lack of diversity in Oscar nominations have led to stars like Spike Lee and Jada Pinkett Smith saying they won't attend the Academy Awards on Feb. 28.

The year's most popular awards show is generally not a must-see event in black households: In the U.S., the share of blacks watching the Oscars is smaller than it is for a typical prime-time TV program, although it exceeds that for the Golden Globes or Emmy awards.

> **They can't afford to lose viewership. The controversy will not end this month. It will keep going until next year.**
> Callie Crossley, cultural commentator

In 2005, 5.3 million African Americans watched the Oscars. That made up 12.2 per cent of the show's audience that year. The Academy Awards hasn't made it up to that level since, hitting a low of 6.6 per cent in 2011.

Callie Crossley, a cultural commentator for WGBH-TV in Boston, said she initially questioned whether a boycott of black viewers would gain traction. But in talking with several friends about the issue, Crossley was taken aback at the amount of anger she heard.

The topic may not have blown up into a controversy had there been few award-worthy performances by non-whites, although that would have been an issue for the film industry by itself. When the popular film Straight Outta Compton and acting performances by Will Smith and Idris Elba all received pre-Oscars buzz, the lack of diversity in the nominations was more obvious.

Despite some Academy Award celebrity defections and calls for a viewing boycott, Chris Rock may generate some viewers and people will be curious to hear what he has to say about the topic. Another drawing card is the participation of Reginald Hudlin, producer of Django Unchained, who is co-producing this year's Oscars ceremony.

"It's going to be tough," Crossley said. "They can't afford to lose viewership."

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Now playing

COMEDY

Zoolander 2

Director: Ben Stiller
Starring: Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson

Ben Stiller returns both in front of and behind the camera for Zoolander 2, a comedy that finds the beloved model Derek Zoolander (Stiller) and his rival-turned-partner Hansel (Owen Wilson) facing a threat to their continued success.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 34% Audience: 95%

DRAMA

The Lady in the Van

Director: Nicholas Hytner
Starring: Maggie Smith, Alex Jennings

This film tells the true story of the relationship between Alan Bennett and the singular Miss Shepherd, a woman who 'temporarily' parked her van in Bennett's London driveway and proceeded to live there for 15 years.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 93% Audience: 76%

DOCUMENTARY

Hitchcock/ Truffaut

Director: Kent Jones
Starring: Francois Truffaut, David Fincher

In 1962, Alfred Hitchcock and a 30-year-old François Truffaut sequestered themselves in a windowless Hollywood office for a weeklong conversation. The result: the seminal book Hitchcock/Truffaut, published a half century ago.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 95% Audience: 80%

ROMANTIC COMEDY

How To Be Single

Director: Christian Ditter
Starring: Dakota Johnson, Alison Brie, Rebel Wilson

A young woman searches for love in New York City in this romantic comedy based on the novel by Liz Tuccillo, and produced by Drew Barrymore.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 47% Audience: 93%

ANIMATION

Snowtime!

Director: Jean-François Pouliot, François Brisson
Starring: Mariloup Wolfe

Snowtime! is a heartfelt romp through childhood full of heart and humour. To amuse themselves during the winter school break, the kids in a small village decide to have a massive snowball fight. Luke and Sophie, both 11 years old, become the leaders of the opposing sides.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: NOT YET REVIEWED Audience: 100%

ACTION/COMEDY

Deadpool

Director: Tim Miller
Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Morena Baccarin

Based on Marvel Comics' most unconventional anti-hero, Deadpool tells the origin story of former Special Forces operative turned mercenary Wade Wilson, who after being subjected to a rogue experiment that leaves him with accelerated healing powers, adopts the alter ego Deadpool.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 81% Audience: 99%

It's all about the chariots

INTERVIEW

Ben-Hur remake's star talks about epic undertaking

Jack Huston is surrounded by the undead in his new movie Pride and Prejudice and Zombies, but this summer the stakes are even higher. He stars in the role made famous by Charlton Heston in a remake of Ben-Hur.

Huston recently watched an early cut of the film and despite the expected jitters from an actor watching his work, he liked what he saw.

"I think the lovely thing is I was seeing it as the big picture. ...I was so taken by everything and all the work that everyone had done," said Huston in a recent interview.

In the 1959 version, the filmmakers used thousands of animals and roughly 10,000 extras. In this remake, they have technology on their side. But Huston says they used special effects judiciously.

"All of us were very interested in trying to do as little CGI as possible in the moments where you didn't need it," he said.

The film's famed chariot scene involved shooting six days a week for two months.

"The chariot scenes, all the slave ship stuff, that's all us. That's all me there. ...We were very conscious of that and we tried to make it as real as possible, as immersive as possible. ...

"We really wanted to give everyone the real experience because that's what Ben-Hur is. When you associate Ben-Hur you see the chariot as well as this incredible character and this arc.

"Everyone's gonna be waiting, 'OK, when's the chariot scene?' We knew we had to outdo everything on that."

Ben-Hur is scheduled for an Aug. 12 opening.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jack Huston is filling Charlton Heston's shoes in a remake of Ben-Hur, which opens in theatres Aug. 12. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New series puts civilians behind bars

A&E

Seven innocent people spend 60 days in jail for reality show

Seven innocent civilians agreed to spend two months in an Indiana jail and have their experiences filmed for an A&E Network series, 60 Days In, that will air starting next month.

Backgrounds of the fake inmates, whose jail time ended in December, were kept from both corrections officers and real inmates at the Clark County Jail in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Even though one of the participants dropped out after being punched by an inmate, the show's producer and Clark County Sheriff Jamey Noel said Wednesday that the stunt was worth the risk.

"We wanted to create a show that really shows what it is like to do time, from a perspective that hadn't been seen before," said Gregory Henry, executive producer for the Lucky 8 TV production company.

The 12-episode series begins 9 p.m. EST Thursday, March 10, with two back-to-back episodes, then moves to 10 p.m. EST starting March 17.

The civilians all had their reasons for participating. One woman was a social worker hoping to put an end to gang violence, one was an ex-Marine who thought the experience would help him become a DEA agent, one was a teacher who wanted to tell students where bad choices can lead them, and one young man wanted to get a sense of what his jailed brother was going through.

Hundreds of cameras followed them. Inmates and guards were told producers were filming a series about the experiences of first-time prisoners, leaving out the detail that they weren't real prisoners.

Participants received counselling and training in advance and were watched constantly. They had a safe phrase — "I really miss the coffee." — and a visual cue of putting a towel on their heads that signalled to producers that they wanted to be removed from a potentially dangerous situation.

Noel, who took office last year, said he was trying to clean up a 500-inmate jail where drugs seemed more available than they were on the streets. He considered bringing undercover police officers into the facility to provide intelligence of what was really going on but couldn't get anyone to commit to a stay beyond two or three days.

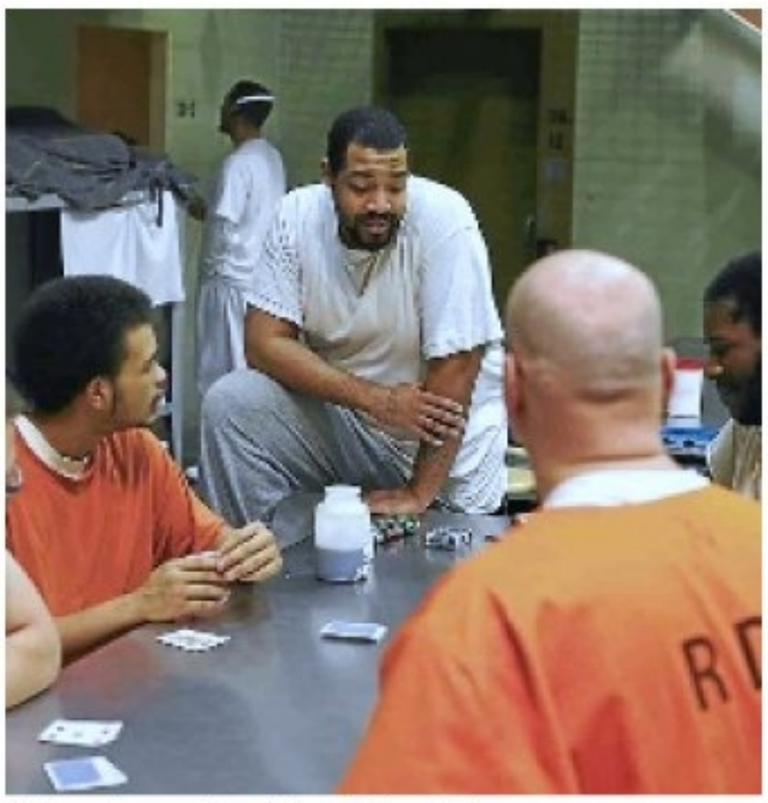
The fake inmates helped provide a mother lode of information that Noel and his colleagues said they're still sifting through, like how contraband weapons were made. Shortly after they got in, new inmates were told by longtime inmates that they wouldn't be permitted to use the bathroom safely unless they paid some sort of bribe.

> **Normal people that have never gotten in trouble before are going to be blown away by what goes on in a jail.**
> Clark County Sheriff Jamey Noel

"We learned stuff that the most experienced corrections officer we had never knew was going on," Noel said.

To him, that made the program worth the risk of the bad publicity that could have resulted if something went terribly wrong for one of the inmate impersonators.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



60 Days In premieres March 10 on A&E. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV BRIEF

Gilmore Girls reboot snags more fond faces

Some familiar Stars Hollow faces will be on hand for the Gilmore Girls reboot.

Netflix says that the four-episode series will include Milo Ventimiglia as Jess Mariano and Matt Czuchry as Logan Huntzberger.

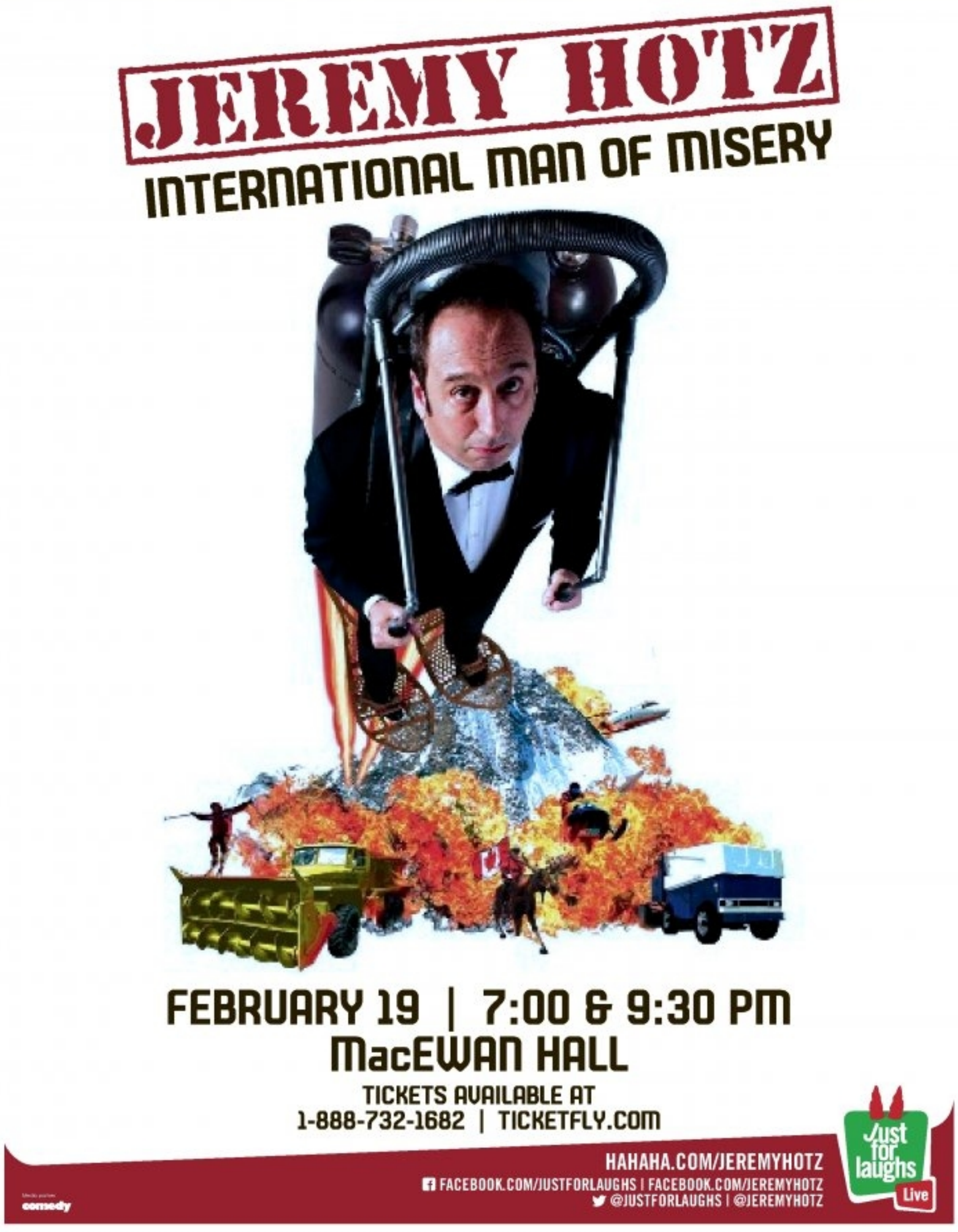
Also returning are Liza Weil as Paris Geller and Yanic Truesdale as Michel Gerard, Netflix said Wednesday.

They'll be joining previously announced stars Lauren Graham and Alexis Bledel, who are reprising their roles as mom Lorelai and daughter Rory from the 2000 to 2007 broadcast network series.

Original cast members Scott Patterson, Kelly Bishop, Keiko Agena and Sean Gunn also will be part of the new series, created by Amy Sherman-Palladino.

The show's title and premiere date have yet to be announced.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fans of Better Call Saul in for dark second season

PREVIEW

Canadian actor Michael Mando teases grim plotline

Small-time huckster Jimmy McGill of Better Call Saul has a long way to go before becoming sleazebag Saul Goodman of Breaking Bad, and Michael Mando, for one, is relishing the character's gradual, inevitable slide.

Better Call Saul's resident Canuck co-star says fans can look forward to higher stakes and a darker turn for several characters returning in the second season, starting Monday.

That includes his calculating thug character, Nacho, who will get more screen time and reveal some insight into what drives his violent impulses, says the Montreal-bred actor.

"The stakes are high. It's a situation of life and death," Mando says of Nacho during a recent stop in Toronto.

The first season ended with Bob Odenkirk's Jimmy turning down a lucrative job offer with a prestigious law firm, vowing instead to live life on his terms.

Mando says that leads to some surprising detours for Jimmy as well as the myriad side players in his life, with Nacho taking extraordinary risks to achieve his deeply personal goals.

Careful to keep spoilers to a minimum, Mando sat down with The Canadian Press to offer a few tidbits about what's in store for AMC's Better Call Saul. THE CANADIAN PRESS

THERE WILL BE "A LOT MORE NACHO"

"We're going to get a sense of his ambition. We're going to get a sense of his moral code. We're going to get a sense of his determination and the adversity that he has to face. And a sense of his psychology," says Mando.

Montreal-born actor Mando plays an ambitious thug in Breaking Bad prequel Better Call Saul. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 Jimmy and Kim get closer

The will-they-won't-they dance between Jimmy and his straitlaced object of affection, Kim Wexler (Rhea Seehorn), progresses significantly in the next batch of episodes, Mando suggests.

"Jimmy and Kim's relationship is at the centre point of Season 2. I can tell you that their professional and personal life is going to be explored deeply, professionally. And we're going to see how their relationship is going to affect their destiny.

"And probably involve the people around them in a very big way."

2 Mike turns to crime

Former cop-turned-muscle-for-hire Mike Ehrmantraut dives deeper into the criminal underworld.

"Mike (Jonathan Banks) is going to find the pressure of sustaining for his granddaughter and daughter-in-law increase. And that's going to push him into this dark criminal world. I can tell you that there'll be unusual alliances for Mike," says Mando.

Could that involve Nacho?

"You will see Nacho and Mike, their storyline gets very interesting," Mando allows.

"There's a lot of similarities between Nacho and Mike. They're both very calculating. They're both dangerous and practical. But there's also two gigantic differences. They have completely different backgrounds. Mike is a cop and Nacho is a thug, a criminal. And there's a huge generation gap. And to see the dynamics of those two characters was really fun to play."

3 Bad blood between brothers

Bad blood remains between brothers Jimmy and Chuck.

Michael McKean's duplicitous Chuck, whose formidable success as a hotshot lawyer cast a daunting shadow over the fumbling Jimmy, comes into play too.

Their prickly relationship is complicated, to say the least, after Chuck stabbed his brother in the back by preventing him from joining his firm.

"Chuck and Jimmy left off season 1 being on very bad terms and that relationship is going to get sour, even more," says Mando.

"And that the psychology of the history of these two opposing forces is going to be explained and revealed."

4 Breaking Bad crossover

Breaking Bad fans, keep your eyes peeled for surprises.

"It is a prequel, so that means that anybody who's alive in Breaking Bad is alive and can come to Better Call Saul," Mando teases.

"Our wonderful writers don't just write people in for a gimmick. It's all part of the story. I can tell you that I am extremely excited about certain Easter eggs."

And the show's nimble ability to hop back and forth to different timelines continues, he adds.

"We can go after Breaking Bad, we can go during Breaking Bad, we can go before Better Call Saul. Everything's game."

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THE TV DINNER **JESSICA ALLEN**

Despite the familiarity and a few heavy-handed moments, Vinyl is thrilling, contagious and good TV

The worst part about cold and flu season is when Martin Scorsese is supposed to show up in Toronto to introduce the pilot of the new HBO show Vinyl he directed but he's a no-show because he's sick.

Simon and I had even prepared serious questions to lob at "Marty," despite there being no scheduled audience Q-and-A. Him: "When was the last time you got through a whole day without someone saying: 'You talkin' to me?'" Me: "Do you know what 'Bobby' De Niro's favourite pasta was when he ate his way through Italy and gained 60 lb. for Raging Bull?"

But Bobby Cannavale, who stars as big time record label president Richie Finestra in the 10-part series premiering Sunday, was in good health — and great humour: "I love coming up here," he said on stage at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto. "Every time [I'm here] is to premiere a movie that goes on to be watched by nobody ... all those movies — I'm of course proud to be a part of — have brought me to this moment. It's like I've finally been traded to the Yankees."

"God, he's got a great head of hair," Simon whispered.

"God, he's got great charisma," I replied.

"I think what you're about to see is unlike anything you've ever seen before," producer Terence "Terry" Winter warned the audience, "certainly not on TV, maybe even in movies."

Not exactly: There are drugs, blood, breasts — even, B-roll (albeit unseen) from Taxi Driver. But don't get me wrong, the two-hour pilot was highly entertaining.

THE SERIES: VINYL

THE MEAL: POPCORN

I was stomping my feet to the music, covering my eyes from the violence, and laughing out loud, which are all signature Scorsese moves, not to mention his jumping chronologically in the narrative, epic swirling hand-held shots and directing a supporting cast — think Andrew Dice Clay, Ray Romano and Max Casella — who surprise and shine in their roles.

Even Vinyl's setting — New York 1973, a pivotal point in music when the foundations of disco, punk and hip hop were laid — feels like it's been mined before. It's also the year Scorsese's Mean Streets came out, whose soundtrack, coincidentally, features music by Mick Jagger, who shares a Vinyl executive producer credit with him — and which trumpeted Scorsese as a director who uses music as though it were a supporting character. "Music and film are almost one and the same," he wrote in Gramophone. "There's the rhythm, the pace of music — and the equivalent of that in film is the camera movement, how long you hold a shot on screen before you cut, if you don't cut, the look on a person's face."

Despite the familiarity (including faces: Jagger's son James also stars in the series), and a few heavy-handed moments, like when Richie accidentally 'discovers' hip hop while driving through South Bronx in his chauffeured Mercedes on his way home to Greenwich — Vinyl is thrilling, contagious and good TV.

The music had been so loud that when we left the theatre into the cold our ears were ringing. "It feels like we just went to a concert," Simon said. And although we hadn't had dinner, we weren't hungry on account of the popcorn we devoured, which doesn't necessarily pair well with the '70s New York music scene but it's quintessential movie food. And Vinyl is quintessential Scorsese, who personifies film and therefore popcorn.

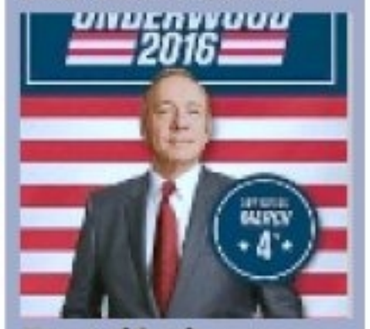
Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

TV BRIEF

Binge on House of Cards Season 4 starting March 4

Netflix has released the official trailer for season four of their award-winning political drama House of Cards. Season four will see the return of Kevin Spacey as Democrat politician Frank Underwood, who will again be joined by Robin Wright as his equally ruthless wife Claire.

Scream actress Neve Campbell will also be joining the show, although her character has not yet been revealed. The fourth season will be released on Netflix March 4, will all new episodes released at the same time so fans can watch as and when they wish. Netflix have already announced that a fifth season of the show will air in 2017. AFP



House of Cards CONTRIBUTED

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A handlebar moustache with a Twitter handle

INTERVIEW

Walking Dead star on fans' obsession with his facial hair

On The Walking Dead, Michael Cudlitz's character, Abraham Ford, is known for his bright red hair and distinctive handlebar moustache. His facial hair has so captivated fans of the zombie apocalypse drama that they've even created an off-colour Twitter account for it at CudlitzStache.

"They play with it and they play with the fact that we don't acknowledge it," Cudlitz said in an interview this week. "It's like, 'What are you doing? I'm right here. I'm right under your nose.'"

Cudlitz said he usually doesn't comment at the Twitter account because he doesn't want to interrupt the fun. But sometimes he just can't resist and will chime in with something like, "'Hey, knock it off', or I say, 'I'm going to cut you off'," adding that "everybody gets nervous when you say something like that."

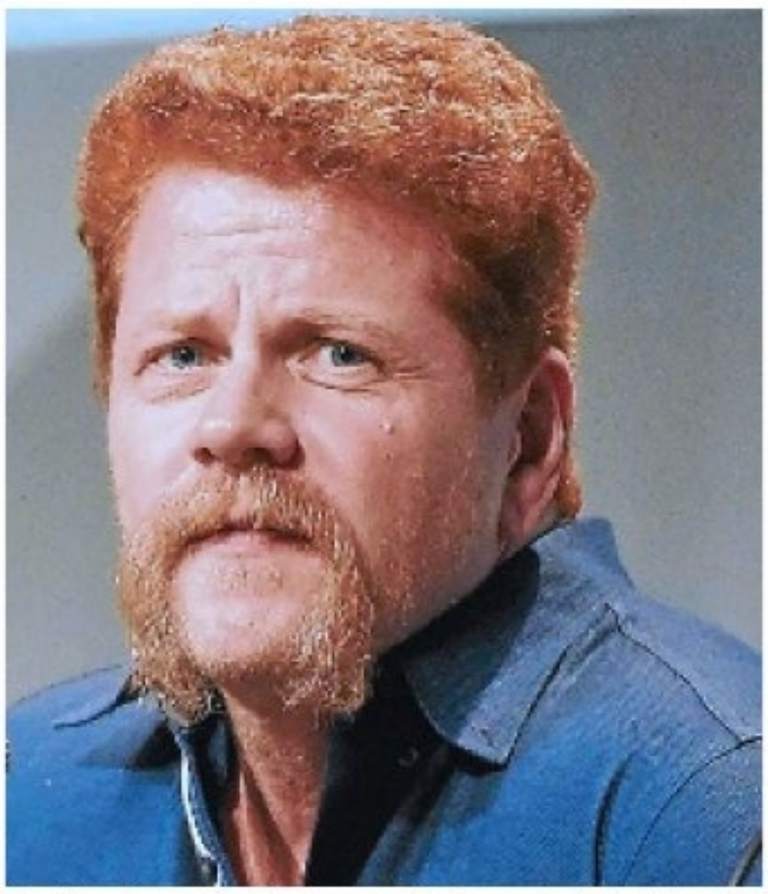
The Walking Dead returns with its midseason premiere Feb. 14 on AMC at 9 p.m. ET. Cudlitz said Season 6 picks up with Alexandria overrun with zombies.

"This is the ultimate test," Cudlitz said, of whether the new characters in the town have the mettle to survive.

Fans also get to meet Negan, the iconic villain of the comic books the series is based on, played by Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

"You're going to love Negan. You're going to love to hate Negan and that's what I think the show needs, someone that you love that is bad that is just as beloved as the characters that he's trying to kill."

As for Abraham, he's now feeling frisky, which viewers saw when he hit on fellow survivor Sasha (Sonequa Martin-Green), even though he's already having an affair with Rosita (Christian Serratos). Cudlitz said he doesn't see anything wrong with that. "It's the zombie apocalypse. He's human." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cudlitz's character Abraham Ford is known for his bright red hair and distinctive handlebar moustache. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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When creators leave

The cancellation of beloved legal drama The Good Wife had fans tweeting up a storm. Creators Michelle and Robert King had already said they wouldn't return for an eighth season. Continuing a series without the original creators is always a hit or miss game, and CBS opted to wrap the show instead of handing it off to a new creative team. That isn't always the case on TV. Some shows do well without their original creators. Others flounder. Here are some of the hits and misses. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE HITS

The Walking Dead
When creator Frank Darabont was fired after the second season of the show, most fans thought it would be the end of a promising franchise. When it debuted in 2010 it was the highest rated series on the network. But executives reportedly had a mandate to cut costs and increase episodes.

Incoming showrunner Glen Mazzara was criticized by fans for being more caretaker than visionary. Still, the show, like its undead subjects, will not die. TWD remains the most successful cable show on the tube as it heads into the back half of its sixth season on Feb. 14.

The Simpsons
The late Sam Simon co-created The Simpsons based on Matt Groening's cartoons.

He left after only four seasons following a dispute with Groening, but not before winning eight Emmy Awards for his creation. While Groening provided the inspiration, it was Simon who gave the cartoon characters life.

The show continued to thrive largely because Simon created a template for the show, which is still going strong as it moves into a remarkable Season 28.

Doctor Who
There was much angst in the sci-fi world recently when showrunner Steven Moffat announced he would step down after five years at the helm. Lost in the initial uproar is the fact that Doctor Who is more than half a century old and has been doing quite well despite a multitude of showrunners and 12 different doctors over the years.

This quintessential British show was created by a Canadian, the late Sydney Newman, when he worked at the BBC in 1963. When Newman returned to Canada in 1970, the show continued with his former production assistant in charge.

Doctor Who is a corporate dream: a show about a guy who time travels in a police box called a Tardis that has so far proved to be a transportable, bulletproof franchise.

Julianna Margulies in The Good Wife. CONTRIBUTED

THE MISSES

Gilmore Girls
The series, which ran from 2000 to 2007, was Amy Sherman-Palladino. But somehow, the CW network didn't get the memo.

Palladino created the ultimate mother-daughter buddy show when she paired Lauren Graham as Lorelai Gilmore raising daughter Rory (Alexis Bledel) in the town of Stars Hollow. The rapid fire Tracy-Hepburn dialogue, littered with pop culture references, hooked viewers.

But contract negotiations stalled between the network and Palladino and her director husband Daniel at the end of Season 6. They were replaced by David S. Rosenthal, a writer and director already working on the series.

The show ran for one more season before it was cancelled.

Seinfeld
Seinfeld co-creators Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld were a brilliant team when they created that little sitcom about nothing.

David's script for The Contest (about who can hold out from masturbating the longest) won an Emmy and was voted TV Guide's best TV episode of all time. But the team was no more after the seventh season.

Seinfeld went on for two more seasons, but the show, while still funny, became more fantastical under Seinfeld's creative control. Having David's cynical eye was sorely missed.

Community
Dan Harmon's Community was inspired by his own experiences going to community college. Harmon served as showrunner after it was picked up by NBC in 2009 but was fired after three seasons.

Apparently, Sony and NBC executives did not appreciate outspoken employees who thought that they were hindrances to creative talent.

Harmon's exile would last only a year. After ratings went down 11 per cent, studio executives apparently thought better of their decision.

Is Tinder more love or game?

STUDY

Millennials are swiping right, but sometimes out of boredom

Online dating services are now hip with young adults, but not always for dating.

Credit mobile dating apps such as Tinder, which incorporate fun elements and are dead simple to use. Swipe right on a profile picture to approve and swipe left to reject. No awkward messages to each other unless both say yes.

But instead of just looking for long-term love, some people are turning to these services for one-night stands and even advice from locals when travelling. Others just want to look at sexy — and not-so-sexy — pics when they're bored.

"It's turned into a game," said Tim Smith, a 21-year-old student from Hampstead, Md.

When he's bored, he turns to Tinder to start swiping on women in the app, even when he doesn't feel like talking to anyone.

Young adults, ages 18 to 24, traditionally haven't been big online daters. They haven't had much of a need, as they are typically surrounded by other young, single people, whether at work or school, said Aaron Smith, associate research director with the Pew Research Center. Tinder and rivals such as Hinge are changing the dynamics, and young adults are using online dating in greater numbers than any other age group these days.

In 2013, only 10 per cent in that age group used online dating. That rose to 27 per cent in the latest Pew study, which was released Thursday. By comparison, only 15 per cent of U.S. adults overall have used dating sites or apps, just a slight increase from 11 per cent in 2013. (If that seems low, it's because the entire U.S. population is surveyed, including people who are already coupled. For people who have never been married, 30 per cent have used online dating.)

Stanford University professor Michael Rosenfeld wrote in a 2012 paper that the Internet could be helpful for people in "thin" dating markets, ones with relatively fewer options for possible partners in their regular life. That includes gays, lesbians and middle-aged straight people, he said.

"Conversely, single people (college students, for example) who are fortunate enough to inhabit an environment full of eligible potential partners may not need to actively search for partners at all," he wrote.

But newer dating apps seem to have made it fun for young people to use — or at least pass the time.

Alfred Mohi, 24, said he has used Tinder for flings with people he doesn't want to see again, and for the emotional high of matching and talking with women he deems attractive.

"I don't know how to say this without sounding like a scumbag, but I used it as a confidence boost," he said.

But he said he wouldn't use Tinder to find a significant other, because he believes it's harder to trust people you meet on the app.

Others describe Tinder as convenient and fun, and possibly a route to a relationship — but there are obstacles.

"A lot of guys will message just terrible things, right off the bat," said Maddie Forshee, a 21-year-old-student in Grand Rapids, Mich. She said she's been sent naked photos.

"It's like, I don't want to see that."

Tinder owner Match Group says half of Tinder users are ages 18 to 24, while 85 per cent are 18 to 34.

Pew's survey shows that some older adults are also more interested in online dating. Usage among 55 to 64 doubled to 12 per cent. Pew's Smith said they probably feel more comfortable with the idea of finding a partner on the Internet as they hear about successful matches from friends and relatives. AFP

Some users of Tinder, and similar apps like Hinge, see it as a way to pass the time or have a fling rather than a means to form connections with potential partners. HANDOUT

> **I don't know how to say this without sounding like a scumbag, but I used it as a confidence boost.**
> Alfred Mohi, 24

DIGITAL

Older users just having 'fun,' too

Edward Stern, a 62-year-old New Yorker, said he has been an online dater for decades and finds more cynicism today.

"I could tell you what it was like in the '90s. People weren't as afraid or distrustful," he said. "That's my biggest impression of what's going on today. You have to pull teeth to get people to meet you."

He said he typically ends up going out with women in their 20s, because those are the ones who respond to him. He says he's happy with "fun" rather than a long-term relationship.

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Comedian Jeremy Hotz's misery has company

Jeremy Hotz's International Man of Misery tour is touching down at MacEwan Hall on Friday Feb. 19. Tickets available online through Ticketfly. HANDOUT

HUMOUR

Blustery cross-Canada tour has audience commiserating

If the distinctly Canadian brand of winter misery has a comedy mascot, it's Jeremy Hotz. He's the comic who turned whining and social anxiety into an art form, delivering his jokes and observations with a cupped hand by his mouth or rubbing an eye.

For the last few years, he's toured the country in the harshest of winter months. He's in the midst of his latest cross-Canada tour with Just for Laughs. Predictably, he's got some complaints about the timing.

"It's a big Just for Laughs gag, I guess. I'm miserable so they throw me out there in February. I get the joke, but quit doing it," Hotz teased.

"Personally, I think that they are trying to kill me. They don't want me to tour anymore. So this is their way of saying, 'Enough.' Or they live in Montreal where the weather's horrible and they want me to experience it because I moved, like I can't see it on the news. I moved for a reason."

A staple of the Canadian comedy circuit for decades, Hotz is a distinct and immediately recognizable performer. Though open about his battles with anxiety — "I've been told by certain analysts that it's amazing I can get out there because its such a stressful field, but I'm more comfortable onstage than off sometimes; I'm all screwed up" — the comedian tends to favour a free-form style of performance.

He may embark on a tour with some planned material but is most comfortable playing with the crowd and improvising. Enough so that he'll be offering fans recordings of every performance on this tour since few are identical.

"I feel like there are a lot of comedians who do the same thing in the same order every night and they're wonderful at it. I'm just not one of those guys," Hotz says. "I can't be that meticulous about my act because that sort of thing gives me anxiety. So I try to keep away from writing material or anything else that might advance my career.

"I'm sure you can tell as we're talking, it's not an act. It's an extension of my personality more than anything else. Yeah, I'm introverted and caught inside, but once the show progresses I come out of that shell."

Hotz might be quick to mock his career, but he's succeeded in acting as well. He won a Gemini for his work on the CBC series The Newsroom and was part of Speed 2.

"That was when I was all wide-eyed and bushy-tailed, so I believe it would be a great movie. Then I started work and could tell I made a tremendous mistake," he quips.

In fact, the comic always hoped to write and star in his own series; it just never worked out. "Nothing would give me more pleasure than doing a television show in Canada, but it seems like that's not going to happen," he says through a sigh. "Which is OK because you've got to see me live and, to be honest, I look better from far away. I recommend sitting at the back of the theatre."

At least Hotz can take comfort in knowing that he's always got a home bringing his misery to the masses onstage. It's a special gift for frozen Canadians who can relate to his personal brand of misanthropy, even if he's got an odd way of describing his appeal.

"Everything I do is wrong," Hotz says. "I put my hand in front of my face. I turn my back to the crowd. I do everything that you're not supposed to do. But when you put it all together, I guess it works. What else am I going to do, work at Harvey's? I tried when I was young and, quite frankly, they didn't like the look on my face."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

YouTube stars and the imitation game

Canadian YouTube star Daniela Andrade is known for her cover songs.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ONLINE

Cover artists get millions of views, can they make it IRL?

#HotlineBlingMusicVideo was the trending topic on Twitter on Oct. 20 when Toronto-based Daniela Andrade, 23, uploaded her stripped-down-and-sensitive guitar cover of the Drake hit to her YouTube channel.

The Toronto rapper's music video had materialized the night before, but only on Apple Music, and went viral instantly. When the curious searched for it on YouTube instead, Andrade's cover ranked prominently in the results. The video quickly racked up over 900,000 views.

Since Andrade began posting videos of herself covering her favourite singer/songwriters in her bedroom in 2008, she's had 33 pass 1 million views each (including an original ballad called Don't Care). But Andrade wants to be known as more than a cover artist.

"It's been something that has been a dream of mine," she says. "I don't know if it's a selfish thing to say, but you really want to be known for your own ideas."

She will release her four-track second EP of original material, Shore, next month as a Beyonce-style "visual album." She's been recording the album with producer Gabriel Gagnon in Montreal, where she says her success with covers hasn't always impressed.

"When I go to L.A. and it's like the YouTuber hub, covers are totally fine," she says. "But when you go somewhere like Montreal where people are very focused on their own personal craft, people are like, 'that's great that you do covers, but what is your story about? What do you want to say?'"

Leroy Sanchez has 37 covers with over 1 million views on his YouTube channel. But the Spanish, L.A.-based star's take on Adele's Hello bested them all with 24 million views. Signed to Interscope, the 24-year-old continues to work on a long-gestating project of originals, even as he's logged 8.7 million views by covering Justin Bieber three times since October.

"It's almost expected that if you started on YouTube then you are supposed to be doing covers first," he says. "I think it's the best way to get exposure for music. I think there are more chances as an artist to be heard doing a cover than doing an original song that no one has heard before."

In the wake of glowing reviews for Ryan Adams' front-to-back cover of Taylor Swift's 1989, and Erykah Badu's But You Caint Use My Phone mix tape, which spring boarded off her funky reimagining of Hotline Bling, covers have a new glow of respectability, even for established artists. The notoriously prickly Prince even relented last December and allowed his long-protected 2008 Coachella cover of Radiohead's Creep to live wild and free online.

But for the majority of cover artists on YouTube, there is a reason why original material often falls on deaf ears. Carol Vernallis, a researcher at Stanford's music department and the author of Unruly Media: YouTube, Music Video, and the New Digital Cinema, says cover artists tend to find success precisely because they lack the individuality that makes a pop star captivating.

"You realize there is a sameness in the voice," she says. "The main elements are something that is very pretty and very intimate. But a pop song needs to work in more ways than that. A pop song needs to work on your headphones, it needs to work in your car, it needs to work at a party. It's got to project in a very piercing way."

Joel Baskin, an agent at The Feldman Agency, says that, at best, a high-traffic cover would introduce him to an artist that he wouldn't have necessarily stumbled across. But high socials, he says, don't necessarily translate into a fan base for an artist's music — if that were true, Kylie Jenner would be releasing singles by Snapchat.

"They are easy to measure but hard to value," he says. "For some Vine (stars), they can't sell out a club."

He sees the popularity of YouTube covers as a way for artists to catch the attention of a generation that shuffles their way through every genre. "People are listening to the playlist now rather than genres," says Baskin, noting it wouldn't be unusual for the bro-country of Luke Bryan, bad-boy R&B of The Weeknd, and balladry of Adele to all sit comfortably together on one teenager's playlist.

"The mainstream now is so wide and so fragmented that it's really hard to reach an audience. Cover songs are a palatable way to find that audience."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dsquared2 heads to Rio

OLYMPICS

Canuck label to dress Olympic, Paralympic teams at Games

Canada's Olympic and Paralympic athletes will be getting the high-end designer treatment in Rio courtesy of homegrown label Dsquared2.

Official team outfitter Hudson's Bay Co. announced Thursday that the famed fashion brand helmed by Toronto-born twins Dean and Dan Caten will design Canada's opening ceremony outfit for the Summer Games.

"We are constantly inspired by Canada, so it is an honour to partner with Hudson's Bay in dressing Team Canada," the Catens said in a statement.

"The opening ceremony look is made with our passion for our birth country mixed with the energetic spirit of Dsquared2."

The Milan-based label was founded in 1995 by the Caten brothers, who were inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame in 2009.

The award-winning duo has past experience designing sportswear, having been enlisted by Italian soccer giant Juventus to create their official team uniforms.

The Catens were headline talent costume designers for the opening and closing ceremonies at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and took part in the torch relay.

Dsquared2 has also outfitted its share of A-list stars, most recently Beyoncé, who wore a custom creation by the label during her buzzed-about Super Bowl halftime performance.

The label faced a backlash last year over a fashion line that was being marketed with the name #dsquaw, a play on the brand's name which incorporated a term offensive to aboriginal women.

The posts have since been deleted.

The Dsquared2-designed opening ceremony outfit and the full Team Canada collection is slated to be unveiled in April.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian designer twins Dean and Dan Caten will design Team Canada at the Olympics this summer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL

Streep caught in diversity debate

The Berlin International Film Festival became embroiled Thursday in the debate about diversity in the movie industry, with jury president Meryl Streep dismissing questions about the all-white panel by telling reporters that "we're all Africans, really."

Streep, who heads a festival film jury for the first time, said she was committed to equality and inclusion "of all genders, races, ethnicities, religions." The jury also includes German actor Lars Eidinger, British film critic Nick James, French photographer Brigitte Lacombe, British actor Clive Owen, Italian actress Alba Rohrwacher and Polish director Malgorzata Szumowska.

"This jury is evidence that at least women are included and in fact dominate this jury, and that's an unusual situation in bodies of people who make decisions," Streep said.

The question of diversity was raised three times during the jury's opening news conference. It follows the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' announcement last month that it was changing its membership rules following uproar over the all-white nominee list for this year's acting Oscars.

Meryl Streep THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Streep — who has won three Oscars and been nominated for the award a further 16 times in her career — said she was proud to head the jury that will choose the winners of the Golden Bear and various Silver Bear awards at the Berlinale. Asked by an Egyptian reporter whether she understood films from the Arab world and North Africa, Streep said while she didn't know much about the region, "I've played a lot of different people from a lot of different cultures."

"There is a core of humanity that travels right through every culture, and after all, we're all from Africa originally," she said. "You know, we're all," she added, pausing, "Berliners, we're all Africans, really." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Grammys have a country crush

AWARDS

Country music makes return with nods in top categories

The hit Girl Crush by Little Big Town earned a nod (from left: Phillip Sweet, Kimberly Schlapman, Karen Fairchild and Jimi Westbrook). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Country music has not had an album or song nominated in the top three categories at the Grammys since 2011 when Lady Antebellum won big. But this year the genre is back in a big way, thanks to Chris Stapleton's overall success and Little Big Town's megahit, Girl Crush.

Girl Crush has earned songwriters Liz Rose, Hillary Lindsey and Lori McKenna nominations for song of the year. While Stapleton, a hit songwriter and former leader of The SteelDrivers, is nominated for album of the year for his debut, Traveller.

The last time a country album was nominated for album of the year was Lady Antebellum's Need You Now at the 2011 Grammys (we don't count Taylor Swift's pop-flavoured Red, which gained nominations for album of the year as well as best country album at the 2014 Grammys, as country).

The 2011 Grammys was also the last time a country track earned nominations for song or record of the year, which Lady A took home for their crossover hit, Need You Now (Miranda Lambert's The House That Built Me was nominated for song of the year that year too).

Charles Kelley of Lady A says the 2011 Grammys "was probably the greatest night of my musical career. It felt like a big win for the genre that night."

Kelley, who is nominated for his first Grammy apart from his Lady A bandmates this year, said country music is returning to the top categories because Little Big Town and Stapleton made unique and unpredictable songs.

> **They made the boldest records... I think the Grammys always tend to recognize when someone has painted outside the lines a little.**
> Charles Kelly of Lady Antebellum on nominees

"They made the boldest records; they're not down-the-middle records at all, and I think the Grammys always tend to recognize when someone has painted outside the lines a little bit," he said.

Sam Hunt also is representing country music with a nomination for best new artist, a category that typically includes at least one country act.

Part of the reason country music has not earned top Grammy nominations may be because country songs don't chart high enough on the pop- and rap-dominated Billboard Hot 100 chart. Grammy voters who are not paying attention to country music may not be as familiar with the genre's songs and albums because it's not in the mainstream as much as rap and rock.

Carrie Underwood's Inside Your Heaven was the last country song to hit No. 1 on the Hot 100 in 2005; before that it was Lonestar in 2000 with Amazed. Though Need You Now and Swift's You Belong With Me both peaked at No. 2, country songs often chart in the bottom half of the Top 40 pop charts and Top 10 hits are a rarity. Girl Crush, as big as it was, peaked at No. 18 on the Hot 100.

"It did not perform in the pop radio world anywhere near what we thought it would," said Mike Dungan, the chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group Nashville, the home to Little Big Town, Stapleton and Hunt.

But country acts have a comfortable home with country radio, and can reach double platinum status without crossing over to pop, which is not the case for rap, rock and R&B acts.

"Back when country was really present on pop radio — let's take this as far back as the '80s — these records were really worked to all the formats at the same time," Dungan said. But today, "country radio ... (doesn't) like it when artists crossover. They look at those artists as if they are opportunists who are looking at country as a maybe a stepping stone to a bigger, broader world," he said. "And so those of us who have been on this side of the business, the labels, the artists, their managers, have been very cautious about when you pull that trigger to cross over."

Because music fans today listen to a wide range of genres, once Girl Crush was sent to pop radio, it had already been heard by some of that audience: "It was already kind of burned out," Dungan said.

At Monday's Grammys, Little Big Town's Pain Killer is nominated for best country album, while Girl Crush is also up for best country song and country duo/group performance.

Stapleton's nominations include best country song, solo performance and album for Traveller.

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Timing hurt Grimes, Juno prez says

MUSIC AWARDS

Art Angels album big on acclaim but low on sales

There's always next year, Grimes. Juno Awards president Allan Reid says he was disappointed that Grimes' eclectic electronic album Art Angels was shut out of this year's nominations despite its critical acclaim, but noted that it could still be recognized at the 2017 ceremony.

"Grimes, we were really hoping she would receive a nomination this year," Reid says. "The challenge that Grimes had is that her record came out right at the end of our eligibility period."

Art Angels, which was submitted to the Pop Album of the Year category despite Grimes' assertions that she is not a "pop star," was released on Nov. 6, 2015. The cut-off date for the category, which is equally weighted between sales and judges' scores, was Nov. 13, giving the album only one week of sales figures.

That was enough for Hedley's Hello, which came out the same day and debuted at No. 1 in Canada. Justin Bieber's Purpose was also nominated despite being released on Nov. 13 — that's because sales for previously released hit singles such as What Do You Mean? Sorry and Love Yourself were included in its sales data.

Art Angels, which debuted on the Billboard chart at No. 16, was clearly more of a critical darling than commercial blockbuster.

Still, Grimes may have a Junos sweep in her future. The eligibility period for some categories, including Album of the Year, is 16 months, allowing albums released during the overlapping months to submit two years in a row.

Beyond sales-driven categories, Grimes' album was submitted to categories that were voted on by judges, including Producer of the Year and Engineer of the Year, but was not recognized.

Responding to how male-dominated the nominees were this year, Reid says that only eight women submitted to the Producer of the Year category; two women submitted to the Recording Engineer of the Year category and no women submitted to the Rock Album of the Year category.

"There's a cyclical (nature) to the release," he says. "I don't think anybody can deny that men this year globally have had an incredible (year), when you look at Drake, the Weeknd, Shawn Mendes and Justin Bieber. No one can say it's not deserved.

"They've had an incredible year this year, just as Alanis and Céline and Sarah McLachlan had an incredible run in the '90s." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JUNO TWEETS

'Women r kinda absent'

In a series of tweets posted on Feb. 2, Grimes wrote "women r kinda absent from the junos this year. No female noms for album, artist, engineer or producer of the year etc. I don't expect recognition, but I believe there were qualified women besides myself for many categories. I can't help but feel that if women were rewarded for technical work, they would feel more inclined to participate."

The tweets were deleted that night.

Canadian singer songwriter Grimes' album, Art Angels, debuted on the Billboard chart at No. 16. GETTY IMAGES

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The award-winning Canadian graphic novel, This One Summer, has stirred up a controversy in a few Florida schools. CONTRIBUTED

Prized graphic novel too graphic for U.S. schools

LITERARY AWARD WINNER

Canadian book pulled from three Fla. high school libraries

An award-winning graphic novel by two Canadian cousins may be too graphic for some Florida high school students.

This One Summer has piled up heaps of acclaim since it was published two years ago, including the Governor General's Literary Award for illustration and being named to the American Library Association's prestigious Caldecott Honor list in 2015.

But after stirring controversy, the book has been pulled from the shelves at three high schools in Seminole County, Fla., and can only be checked out by students with parental consent.

"(The book) is in detention, is what it is. It's basically in detention. I'm under no illusion, it's in the special section," said Mariko Tamaki, who wrote the book along with cousin Jillian, who did the illustrations.

"I don't take it personally. I understand that there's content in the book that some people would find offensive. But to me, the book is sort of a picture of life and life includes things that are challenging and offensive," Tamaki added.

Sheila Barry, publisher of Canadian publisher, Groundwook Books, said the Florida board's decision to segregate the book makes her "angry."

"(The book) has gotten endless, endless praise, it's won so many awards. This is a fine literary piece of art, it isn't a piece of junk. It is an amazingly good book," Barry said.

"This (book) is something that reflects the lives that teenagers are actually living in the world they're actually living in, which really isn't a pretty-pretty, safe-safe world," Barry added.

Michael Lawrence, communications officer for the Seminole County Public Schools, said the controversy first started when an eight-year-old elementary school student brought the book home and her mother was "shocked" by the contents.

The school district discovered the book had been ordered from a recommended reading list by two other elementary schools and three high schools. The book has been withdrawn completely from the elementary schools.

"Clearly it's a teen reader so it had no business at an elementary school," Lawrence said.

Barry agreed the book is more appropriate for teenage readers.

"It really isn't a book for eight- and nine-year-old children. It deals with some pretty heavy themes including teen sexuality and teen pregnancy. There's a fair amount of graphic language and content but not too graphic for any teenager in high school," Barry said.

"To have it removed from an elementary school library, that's one thing. To have it removed from three high school libraries, that I find very upsetting," she added.

While Lawrence also praised This One Summer as a "great ... award-winning book," he noted that it will have to undergo an internal review to determine if it's appropriate for high school students.

"From our standpoint, because of a lot of the sexual content and the graphic nature of the language — we have rules against a lot of that in our schools — (the review committee will) want to look at it from a public school standpoint," Lawrence said.

Tanaki said she's not discouraged by the board's decision, noting the book has been championed by librarians and groups like the non-profit Comic Book Defense Fund, which champions works for young readers and has written a user's guide for the novel.

"I know a lot of really amazing librarians who are our front lines, they're the ones who's job it is to talk to parents and educators about these books and I think they do an amazing job and I kind of leave the job of defending the book to them because they do such a great job," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MEMOIR

Springsteen was born to write

The Boss has a book deal.

Simon & Schuster announced Thursday that Bruce Springsteen has spent the past several years working on a memoir, which will come out Sept. 27, four days after Springsteen turns 67.

The title, of course, is Born to Run. Financial terms were not disclosed, although his deal is almost certainly worth millions. "Writing about yourself is a funny business," Springsteen said in a statement that will appear in his book. "But in a project like this, the writer has made one promise, to show the reader his mind. In these pages, I've tried to do this."

According to Simon & Schuster, Springsteen will tell his story with "disarming candour" as he remembers his childhood in New Jersey, his rise to superstardom and "the personal struggles" that inspired such classics as "Born to Run" and Thunder Road."

Publishers have long sought a memoir from Springsteen, one of the world's most beloved rock stars and one who has long spoken of his love for John Steinbeck, Flannery O'Connor and other authors. He is writing the book himself and began working on it in 2009 after he and the E Street Band performed at the Super Bowl halftime show.

Springsteen is currently on tour, performing his 1980 double album The River.

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Bruce Springsteen will release his memoir in September. GETTY IMAGES

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Liam Neeson has a secret love

Liam Neeson is not saying who, and his silence has left gossips columnsist guessing. The 63-year-old actor gave the Irish Sunday Independent two tantalizing clues: she is "incredibly famous" and he has some sweet plans to "do my best for her" on Valentine's Day. He also said of his new girlfriend, "I'd embarrass her if I said her name." Luckily, we're not so shy. Here are a few of our (ridiculous) best bets.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Liam Neeson is not going public with the identity of his new lover. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

1 KRISTEN STEWART

The 25-year-old Twilight star was suggested as a likely match based on the fact both actors were at the same New York restaurant for the New York Film Critics Circle Awards on Jan. 5.

Neeson's spokesperson has already put out the fire, telling the Independent it is "meaningless speculation."

2 SAOIRSE RONAN

The talented, 21-year-old Bronx-born and Irish-raised star of Brooklyn was also at Tao that night. And she won Best Actress.

Guess who presented the Oscar nominee with her award? Yup, Liam Neeson. We will now proceed to link Neeson's name with everybody in the joint Jan. 5.

3 MADONNA

Madge is "incredibly famous." So that's covered. But Neeson also told the Independent his new amour has uncomplicated tastes: "It's amazing how far a simple bunch of freshly picked flowers will go in a lady's life, I find."

Simple tastes for the material girl? Not a chance.

4 DIANE LANE

Neeson has been known to date his co-stars, including a lengthy relationship with Helen Mirren, whom he met on the set of Excalibur in 1981. Lane is in pre-production for Felt, the story of Deep Throat, the Watergate source used by Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. The 51-year-old star and Neeson play spouses Audrey and Mark Felt.

5 HALLE BERRY

Divorced from Olivier Martinez, the 49-year-old Oscar winner is self-assured and successful, launching her own production company and recently adding her voice to the #OscarsSoWhite diversity campaign. Her heartfelt 2002 Oscar speech remains a classic moment. Maybe she's the famous woman Neeson is pining for?

6 NIGELLA LAWSON

"They say the way to someone's heart is through their stomach," Lawson writes on her website — just above a recipe for "Love Buns." The renowned 56-year-old chef, who lustily helped push food porn onto the world stage while cooing about comfort food and simple pleasures, could just be the one to mix up some romance with Neeson.

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#55001	2015 Chev 2500 HD Silverado Double Cab 4x4	WAS $65,605	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $18,607
#57007	2015 Chev 2500 HD Sierra Double Cab 4x4	WAS $74,480	NOW $56,888	SAVINGS $17,592
#55026	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado Double Cab 4x4	WAS $68,745	NOW $52,488	SAVINGS $16,257
#57042	2015 Chev 2500 Sierra Double Cab SLE 4x4	WAS $58,365	NOW $41,955	SAVINGS $16,377
#55085	2015 Chev 2500 HD Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $69,525	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $18.137
#55095	2015 Chev 2500 HD Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $69,565	NOW $51,888	SAVINGS $17,677
#55093	2015 Chev 2500 HD Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $68,935	NOW $51,888	SAVINGS $17,047
#57221	2015 Chev 1500 Sierra Double Cab 4x4	WAS $57,675	NOW $44,488	SAVINGS $13,187
#57222	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra Double Cab 4x4	WAS $57,675	NOW $44,477	SAVINGS $13,187
#57226	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra Double Cab 4x4	WAS $57,675	NOW $44,488	SAVINGS $13,187
#57236	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra Double Cab 4x4	WAS $57,675	NOW $44,488	SAVINGS $13,187
#55177	2015 Chev 2500 HD Silverado Double Cab LZ 4x4	WAS $66,140	NOW $47,988	SAVINGS $18,152
#58022	2015 Chev City Express LS	WAS $28,740	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $6,852
#58003	2015 Chev City Express LS	WAS $28,255	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $6,367
#57311	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS $75,870	NOW $58,888	SAVINGS $16,982
#55215	2015 Chev 2500 HD Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $82,035	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $16,547
#57318	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS $75,870	NOW $58,888	SAVINGS $16,982
#57321	2015 GMC 2500 Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS $75,870	NOW $58,888	SAVINGS $16,982
#57322	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS $75,870	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $16,982
#57328	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra C/C 4x4	WAS $57,520	NOW $44,388	SAVINGS $13,132
#57337	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra Double Cab 4x4	WAS $57,520	NOW $44,388	SAVINGS $13,132
#57291	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS $75,870	NOW $58,888	SAVINGS $16,982
#57334	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS $87,040	NOW $69,988	SAVINGS $17,052
#55241	2015 GMC 2500 HE Sierra C/C 4x4	WAS $81,980	NOW $64,998	SAVINGS $16,992
#57333	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS $87,040	NOW $69,988	SAVINGS $17,052
#57290	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C 4x4	WAS $69,050	NOW $51,888	SAVINGS $17,162
#57369	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra C/C SLE 4x4	WAS $54,955	NOW $41,988	SAVINGS $12,957
#55293	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $64,460	NOW $49,888	SAVINGS $14,575
#52337	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 2LS Auto	WAS $22,520	NOW $15,988	SAVINGS $6,532
#58004	2015 Chev City Express LS	WAS $29,410	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $6,922
#55311	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $63,085	NOW $48, 888	SAVINGS $14,197
#56508	2015 Chev Canyon Ext/C 4x4	WAS $40,955	NOW $35,888	SAVINGS $5,067
#56513	2015 Chev Canyon Ext/C 4x4	WAS $40,955	NOW $35,888	SAVINGS $5,067
#59738	2015 GMC Acadia AWD SL1	WAS $53,470	NOW $44,888	SAVINGS $8,582
#52400	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 1LT Turbo Auto	WAS $24,205	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $7,017
#52392	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 1LT Turbo Auto	WAS $24,205	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $7,017
#54129	2015 Chev HD Express Cutaway	WAS $54,771	NOW $48,488	SAVINGS $6,283
#55345	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $62,380	NOW $48,988	SAVINGS $13,392
#52414	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 2LS	WAS $21,070	NOW $14,688	SAVINGS $6,382
#55352	2015 Chev 2500 HD Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $71,835	NOW $55,488	SAVINGS $16,347
#59252	2015 Verano	WAS $26,465	NOW $20,588	SAVINGS $5,877
#52415	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 1LS	WAS $18,370	NOW $11,998	SAVINGS $6,372
#52420	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 1LT Turbo Auto	WAS $24,010	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $7,022
#57482	2015 Chev 2500 HD Sierra C/C SLE 4x4	WAS $72,385	NOW $56,288	SAVINGS $16,157
#52429	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 2LS Auto	WAS $22,520	NOW $15,988	SAVINGS $6,532
#55383	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	Was $68,000	NOW $53488	SAVINGS $14,512
#55394	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C High Country Duramax 4x4	Was $83,755	NOW $66,228	SAVINGS $17,567
#59261	2015 Buick Verano	Was $26,605	NOW $20,488	SAVINGS $6,117
#55399	2015 Chev 1500 C/C High Country 4x4	Was $66,935	NOW $53,588	SAVINGS $13,347
#55401	2015 Chev 3500 Silverado HD C/C High Country 4x4	Was $83,960	NOW $66,488	SAVINGS $17,472
#55403	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $74,980	NOW $58,488	SAVINGS $16,492
#55402	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $59,300	NOW SOLD 88	SAVINGS $16412
# 52042	2015 Corvette Stingray 3LT	Was $84,700	NOW SOLD 55	SAVINGS $13,245
# 55410	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4 REAPER Edition	Was $100,000	NOW $82,888	SAVINGS $17,112
# 57513	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C SLE 4x4	Was $56,590	NOW $40,888	SAVINGS $15,702
# 55413	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $53,965	NOW $38,888	SAVINGS $15,077
# 55415	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $82,615	NOW $65,488	SAVINGS $17,127
# 55416	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $53,965	NOW $38,888	SAVINGS $15,077
# 52023	2015 Corvette Stingray Coupe 3LT	Was $87,470	NOW $73,432	SAVINGS $14,038
# 57515	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD SLE C/C 4x4	Was $56,590	NOW $40,888	SAVINGS $15,702
# 55411	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $54,900	NOW $39,888	SAVINGS $15,102
# 55412	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $53,965	NOW $38,888	SAVINGS $15,077
# 55418	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $53,965	NOW $38,888	SAVINGS $15,077
# 55419	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $53,965	NOW $38,888	SAVINGS $15077
# 55425	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4 Duramax	Was $82,615	NOW $65,488	SAVINGS $17,127
# 55426	2015 Chev Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $82,615	NOW $65,488	SAVINGS $17,127
# 55427	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado High Country C/C 4x4	Was $68,380	NOW $54,488	SAVINGS $13,892
# 57519	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra C/C 4x4, Lifted, Wheel Pkg	Was $82,825	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $11,937
# 55421	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $82,615	NOW SOLD 38	SAVINGS $17,327
# 55428	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $82,615	NOW $65,488	SAVINGS $17,127
# 55436	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado DBL Lowered	Was $62,056	NOW $48,488	SAVINGS $13,568
# 52032	2015 Corvette Stingray Coupe 3LT	Was $88,230	NOW $74,172	SAVINGS $14,058
# 52036	2015 Corvette Stingray Coupe Z51, 3LT	Was $85,120	NOW $71,825	SAVINGS $13,295
# 52041	2015 Corvette Stingray Convert 3LT	Was $87,490	NOW SOLD 40	SAVINGS $13,800
# 57534	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra 4x4	Was $62,925	NOW $48,488	SAVINGS $14,437
# 52119	2015 Chev Camaro LT 2LT Coupe	Was $40,440	NOW $29,998	SAVINGS $10,442
# 55455	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	Was $63,535	NOW $49,488	SAVINGS $14,047
# 55459	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	was $63,535	NOW SOLD 88	SAVINGS $14,047
# 52488	2015 Chev Cruze 1LS	Was $18,370	NOW $11,988	SAVINGS $6,382
# 57547	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra Base R/Cab	Was $38,210	Now $30,998	SAVINGS $7,212
# 56530	2015 Chev Canyon SLE Crew Cab	Was $40,490	NOW $32,988	SAVINGS $7,502
# 55732	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado L HD C/C 4x4	Was $59,085	NOW SOLD 88	SAVINGS $16,197
# 54942	2015 Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was $39,335	NOW $34,488	SAVINGS $4,867
# 54943	2015 Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was $39,335	NOW $34,488	SAVINGS $4,867
# 57557	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra Reg/C 4x4	Was $36,910	NOW $29,988	SAVINGS $6,912
# 56531	2015 Chev Canyon SLE Crew Cab	Was $36,010	NOW $29,998	SAVINGS $6,012
# 59288	2015 Buick Verano	Was $26,465	NOW $20,488	SAVINGS $5,977
# 59289	2015 Buick Verano	Was $26,085	NOW SOLD 88	SAVINGS $6,087
# 54945	2015 Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was $39,335	NOW $34,488	SAVINGS $4,867
# 59426	2015 Buick Encore AWD	Was $34,110	NOW $26,888	SAVINGS $7,222
# 59427	2015 Buick Enocre AWD	Was $32,340	NOW $25,488	SAVINGS $6,852
# 57577	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra DENALI C/C	Was $73,110	NOW $57,988	SAVINGS $15,122
# 56397	2015 GMC Terrain SLE	Was $35,915	NOW $28,888	SAVINGS $7,027
# 54834	2015 Chev Trax LS	Was $21,490	NOW $16,688	SAVINGS $4,802
# 54835	2015 Chev Trax LS	Was $21,490	NOW $16,688	SAVINGS $4,802
# 56131	2015 Chev Equinox LS	Was $28,765	NOW $22,388	SAVINGS $6,377
# 56398	2015 GMC Terrain SLE2	Was $33,689	NOW $26,988	SAVINGS $6,701
# 52492	2015 Chev Cruze 1LS	Was $18,170	NOW $11,998	SAVINGS $6,172
# 52493	2015 Chev Cruze 1LT Turbo	Was $23,910	NOW $16,888	SAVINGS $7,022
# 55747	2015 Chev 3500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $80,605	NOW $64,288	SAVINGS $16,317
# 56674	2015 GMC Yukon XL DENALI	Was $88,355	NOW $77,488	SAVINGS $10,867
# 55561	2015 Chev Tahoe LZ 4x4	Was $74,635	NOW $63,888	SAVINGS $10,747
# 59337	2015 Buick Enclave 1SL AWD	Was $57,830	NOW $48,888	SAVINGS $8,942
# 55754	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD 4x4 C/C	Was $81,480	NOW $64,788	SAVINGS $16,692

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Visitors can rent Van Gogh's room on Airbnb for $10 US a night

Colorado, two ways

Thanks to the state's elevation and its distance from the Equator, Colorado offers ideal skiing conditions — for both the budget-savvy and luxury-minded. It's home to dry, powdery snow and just-cold-enough winter temperatures to not leave you frozen. With no lift lines and long ski runs, you'll get more quality skiing done here than in a lot of other regions. **KAREN KWAN/FOR METRO**

1 On a budget?

Go to picturesque Copper Mountain, which is less than a two-hour drive from Denver International Airport.

Where to stay

Copper Mountain Resort's family-friendly ski-in, ski-out lodges' condos start from $142 US/night and are casual (think lots of pine) but cozy (hello, fireplace).

Most lodges are equipped with a hot tub, gym and ski locker. With activities and restaurants spanning three Villages (there's a complimentary shuttle between each village) and ski rentals right at the foot of the mountain in Center Village, you get to spend more of your vacation time on the slopes and enjoying apres-ski life.

Where to ski

The mountain naturally divides into sections for beginners, intermediate and advanced, so if you're a newbie on skis or a board you can stick to the lower mountain or the green runs, which are far from the more difficult runs, so there's no need to fret about accidentally ending up on a black diamond.

Expert skiers, on the other hand, can head straight to shredding the bowls at Copper such as Resolution and Union, where they can find fresh snow on powder days. Download the Copper Mountain Sherpa app before you go so you can follow fellow skiers, track the vertical feet you ski, your speed, hear "audibles" (tips and messages) left by other skiers at certain points of the mountain, get run suggestions and more.

Where to eat

For breakfast, go to Endo's Adrenaline Bar & Grill in Center Village (the huevos rancheros makes for filling ski fuel).

Feeling peckish on the mountain? At the top of the American Eagle chairlift, grab a Belgian waffle or warm cup of soup at Flyers Soup Shack.

Come evening, swap the ski gear for smart casual attire and head to the posh C.B. Grille, located in Center Village, and dig into fresh local fare such as its striped bass and Angus beef.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

2 Want to splurge?

About a one-hour drive from Montrose Regional Airport, Telluride offers slopes that are as good as Aspen but without the hype. Stay at luxe The Peaks Resort & Spa, where you can rest in your modern spacious suite, get a top-notch massage for your ski-weary muscles at the spa, and enjoy ski-in, ski-out access to Telluride Ski Resort.

This historic mining town, which you may recognize from Quentin Tarantino's flick, Hateful Eight, sits in a box canyon (read: unbeatable mountain vistas) where you can shop along its charming main street in town (get on the free gondola to get there) before dinner at Allred's. Everything there is a sure bet, but meat lovers should not miss the tender, juicy cider-brined Berkshire Colorado pork chop.

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5 L.A. HOTSPOTS THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE A STAR

It's Oscar season in Los Angeles. With the 88th annual Academy Awards scheduled for Feb. 28, here are five places in L.A. to soak up those glitzy Oscars vibes and maybe even run into one of the nominees if you're lucky.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Arclight Hollywood

One of the most striking movie theatres in the country, the Cinerama Dome has hosted oodles of film premieres since opening in 1963. It has more than 800 seats and looks like an enormous white golf ball chopped in half. With reserved seating, cushy stadium seats, a bar and cafe, and various film exhibits, the Arclight Hollywood is a popular place for movie fans and celebrities alike.

2 The Peninsula Beverly Hills

The Peninsula Beverly Hills hotel is known as the ultra-luxe stay for Oscar nominees. For those who can afford some true Oscars-worthy pampering, the hotel offers services such as a week-long "Red Carpet Ready" package of personal training sessions and spa treatments.

3 Runyon Canyon Park

Those tabloid photos you see of celebrities and their pooches huffing it up a winding dusty path? More than likely, they're photos of Runyon Canyon, a 160-acre nature park nestled in the Hollywood Hills. Hit the park's trails for panoramic views of L.A. at the top or join a yoga in the park class.

4 The Grove

With its sprawling swath of swanky stores, including Barneys New York, Swarovski and Diane von Furstenberg, this outdoor retail centre always attracts a slew of movie stars, from Mark Wahlberg to Oscar winner Halle Berry. Walk along the main path, or take a quick trolley ride to the historic Farmers Market next door.

5 FIDM Museum

Anyone who covets the spiky, apocalyptic clothes in Mad Max: Fury Road or the silky 1920s outfits in The Danish Girl, both nominated for best costume design Oscars, will love the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising Museum's 24th annual Art of Motion Picture Costume Design exhibit.

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This year's Basketball Hall of Fame class includes three players certain to make the cut — Allen Iverson, Shaquille O'Neal and Yao Ming

Basketball's best bring sizzle to T.O.

Raptors guards DeMar DeRozan, left, and Kyle Lowry will represent the Eastern Conference in Sunday's all-star game in Toronto. JENNIFER POTTHEISER/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

2016 NBA ALL-STAR

Mid-season showcase lands north of border

Chris Bosh set foot in Toronto on Thursday and before he could put his hand to his phone, a probably unwelcome but familiar feeling hit him and stung any exposed skin, tensing his entire six-foot-11 frame.

"It. Is. COLD," the former Raptor, now an 11-time NBA all-star and six-year member of the Miami Heat, tweeted.

He's certainly not wrong. The temperature is expected to dip to -23 C on Friday and Saturday night.

If nothing else, the cold lines up perfectly with the arrival of basketball Christmas in Toronto.

The NBA and all its best players and personalities and the parties that come with them are in Canada for all-star weekend.

The festive feeling that started to percolate in downtown Toronto on Thursday will bubble and brew Friday and roar into a basketball-themed beast of its own for the weekend, culminating in the 65th edition of the all-star game Sunday.

LeBron James and Kobe Bryant are in Toronto. So is Stephen Curry and his Splash Brother, Klay Thompson. Bosh, Dwyane Wade, Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook. The insanely talented list goes on and on. Paul George, Carmelo Anthony, DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry.

Given the magnitude of the talent assembled for Sunday's game, the weekend starts off almost inconspicuously Friday with the NBA celebrity game and its 7 p.m. tipoff at Ricoh Coliseum.

There's a distinctly Canadian flavour to the game, with Drake coaching a Canadian team alongside two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash against comedian Kevin Hart's U.S. team.

Drake and Nash will oversee a team that features Jose Bautista, Milos Raonic and former players Tracy McGrady, Rick Fox and Tammy Sutton-Brown. Actor Nick Cannon and former Raptors Chauncey Billups and Muggsy Bogues are on Hart's team.

The first NBA-related piece of the weekend comes next, with the Rising Stars Challenge at Air Canada Centre. The league modifying the rookies vs. sophomores game to a U.S. against the World Team setup last year works perfectly for the first all-star weekend outside America.

As long as the game is played in the States, Friday will mark the only time that Team World is the fan favourite.

"That's really cool," said Dallas Maverick and Toronto native Dwight Powell, a second-year forward who'll be on Team World.

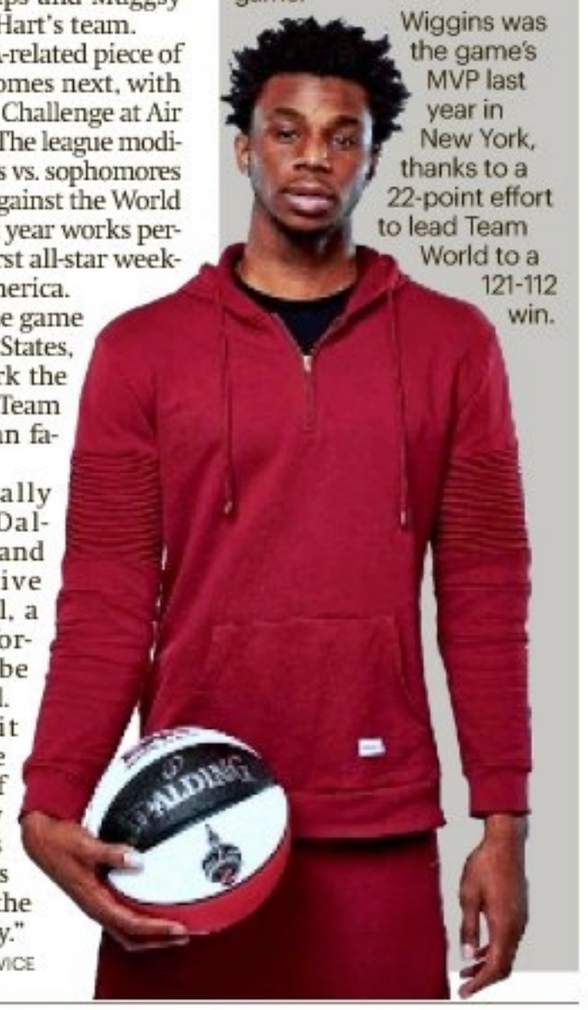
"I think it speaks to the globalization of the game, how many people it's touching across the world and the NBA specifically."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **Literally we were writing down our hopes, our dreams, our visions for the Raptors. And one of the dreams was to play the first international all-star game outside of the U.S**
>
> Isiah Thomas, the Raptors' first-ever general manager

OUR GUYS

Three Canadians — **Andrew Wiggins**, pictured, Dwight Powell and Trey Lyles — will play for the World Team versus the U.S. in Friday's Rising Stars game.



Wiggins was the game's MVP last year in New York, thanks to a 22-point effort to lead Team World to a 121-112 win.

NHL

Bruins bruise Jets in Winnipeg

Patrice Bergeron scored a pair of goals and Brett Connolly added a trio of assists as the Boston Bruins downed the Winnipeg Jets 6-2 on Thursday.

Loui Eriksson and Brad Marchand each had a goal and an assist. David Pastrnak and Jimmy Hayes also scored for the Bruins (29-19-6).

Bryan Little had a goal and a helper and Nikolaj Ehlers also scored for the Jets (24-27-3). Blake Wheeler had a pair of assists.

Tuukka Rask made 34 saves for Boston, which had been coming off a 9-2 home loss to Los Angeles.

Connor Hellebuyck started for Winnipeg, but was replaced by Michael Hutchinson at first intermission with the Bruins up led 3-2 at the first intermission.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jets captain Andrew Ladd screens Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask on Thursday in Winnipeg. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Raonic unable to resume court training due to injury

Canadian tennis player Milos Raonic has been unable to resume on-court training due to a slightly torn adductor muscle that hampered his play in a semifinal loss to Andy Murray at the Australian Open last month.

Raonic had difficulty pushing off his right leg in the later stages of the four-hour match and Murray took the last two sets for the win. He said he has been able to do strength work and off-court training since then but hasn't hit balls because of the two-centimetre tear in the adductor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sunderland fires Johnson after guilty plea in sex case

EPL club Sunderland has fired winger Adam Johnson after he pleaded guilty to grooming and sexual activity with a 15-year-old girl at the start of his trial.

Former Manchester City player Johnson, who has played 12 times for England, continues to deny two further counts of sexual activity with a child. Sunderland dismissed Johnson ahead of his trial.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's Sinclair focused on Olympics not Zika virus

Captain Christine Sinclair says the Canadian soccer team is thinking of other things than the Zika virus as it bids to qualify for the Rio Olympics.

"No. I haven't heard our team talk about it once, to be honest," she told a news conference Wednesday on the eve of playing Guyana at the CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying tournament. "Our focus is (Thursday night) and that's pretty much where we're staying focused at."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ticats hurt Argos with Owens counter-punch

CFL

After Bulcke chose Toronto Hamilton hit back instantly

Moments after losing Canadian defensive lineman Brian Bulcke to Toronto, Kent Austin delivered a timely counter-punch to the arch-rival Argonauts.

The Hamilton head coach/GM agreed to terms with former Argos standout Chad Owens on a one-year deal Thursday, less than an hour after Bulcke agreed to go to Toronto following three seasons with the Tiger-Cats.

Owens' contract details weren't available, but Toronto GM Jim Barker had said it would be financially challenging to re-sign the former CFL outstanding player.

"There's nothing we can do about it," Barker said Thursday regarding the prospect of losing a veteran in free agency. "It's going to happen every year." Toronto also lost free-agent kicker/punter Swayze Waters to the NFL's Carolina Panthers but gained Calgary Stampeders defensive back Keon Raymond on the third day of CFL free agency.

Toronto Argonauts' Chad Owens will be missed by the Toronto Argonauts faithful. MIKE F CAMPBELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

With Bulcke gone, Hamilton re-signed Canadian free-agent defensive lineman Michael Atkinson to a two-year agreement. For years, Owens was the face of the Argos. The five-foot-nine, 180-pound dynamo was named the CFL's outstanding player in 2012 after registering 94 catches for 1,328 yards and six touchdowns and amassing a record 3,840 all-purpose yards.

And the 33-year-old Hawaiian capped that season off by helping Toronto win the 100th Grey Cup at Rogers Centre. He signed a lucrative contract extension in June 2013 reportedly worth $225,000 annually and last year moved his family from Hawaii to live full-time in southern Ontario.

> **"There's nothing we can do about it.**
> Toronto GM Jim Barker on losing Chad Owens

But after missing just two games his first three years in Toronto, Owens has been sidelined for 17 regular-season games the last three seasons. In 2015, he finished with 55 catches for 570 yards and two touchdowns over 13 contests. Owens remained Toronto's leading punt returner — 37 returns, 12.6-yard average, one TD — but CFL rookie A.J. Jefferson (26 returns, 12.5-yard average, one touchdown) also performed admirably.

Shortly after agreeing to join the Ticats, Owens graciously thanked Argos fans for their support. "There isn't enough words to express the gratitude I have for the Toronto Argonauts," Owens tweeted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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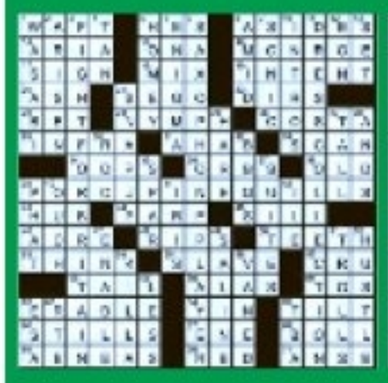

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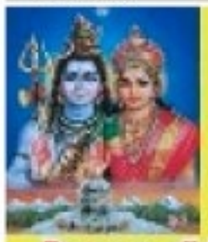

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RECIPE Garlic Apples Grilled Cheese

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The only thing you need to add to this crunchy, garlicky grilled cheese is a fresh green salad. Or a glass of wine. Or both. Yeah, definitely have both — it's Friday!

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 15 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 clove garlic, grated
- 1 Gala apple, peeled and thinly sliced
- 4 pieces of multi-grain bread
- 1/2 cup crumbled, aged cheddar

Directions
1. In a medium frying pan, melt butter over medium heat. Add garlic and sauté until garlic is translucent, about 2 minutes.
2. Toss in apples and sauté until soft, about 2 to 3 minutes. Remove apples and place on a clean pate.
3. In the same pan, place a slice of bread and then cover the top with the shaved cheddar. Lay slice of apple atop cheese and then cap with the other slice of bread. Cook until the underside becomes a gold brown then flip. Remove from the pan and serve when the cheese melts thoroughly and the top is also a golden brown. Repeat with other two slices of bread.

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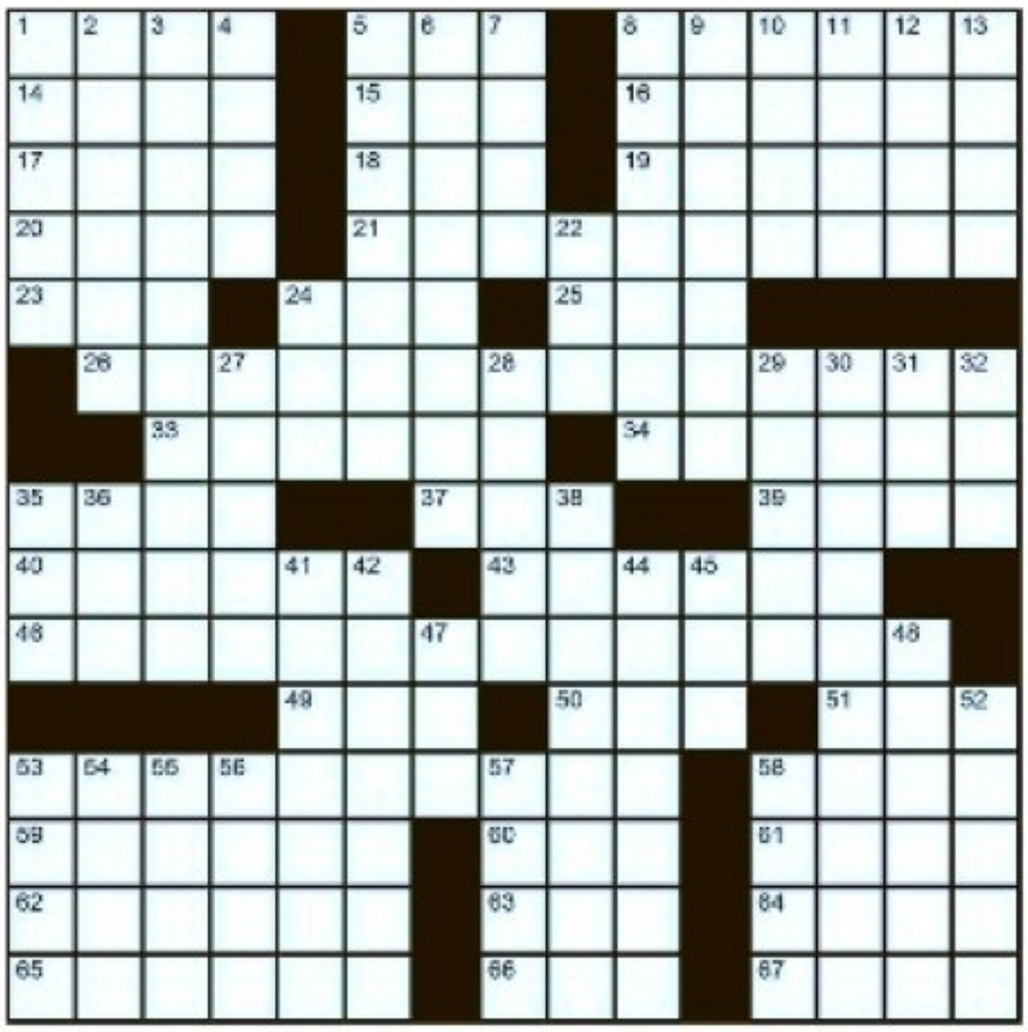
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Cobras
5. FMs opposites
8. "_ House on the Prairie"
14. Shetland _
15. Allow
16. Kind of: 3 wds.
17. Additionally
18. Star's secret
19. Selection
20. Cobblestone
21. Song from the musical Hair: "_ England"
23. "Let me think..."
24. Car or truck, e.g.
25. Not him
26. Caribou, for instance: 2 wds.
33. Give
34. _ of Liberty
35. Particular
37. Camera variety, commonly
39. Puny physicians
40. Runway surface
43. Cats mystery writer, _ Jackson Braun
46. Super Channel show which is a nominee in the 'Best Comedy Series' category for the upcoming 2016 Canadian Screen Awards: 3 wds.
49. Apiece
50. Ron _ (Star of '60s series "Tarzan")
51. Cry
53. The workplace setting that 'Gottfried Brothers' is on the show at #46-Across: 2 wds.
58. "Dial _ _ Murder" (1954)
59. Anxiety
60. Coffee holder
61. Sacred Hindu text
62. _ burner (Lab device)
63. Flight schedule acronym
64. Fur
65. Gauge
66. Draperies bar
67. Leave in, in proofreading

DOWN
1. Flooded
2. Seriously sincere
3. Like some late 20th-century architecture
4. Letter insertion site, sometimes
5. Town in southern Saskatchewan meaning 'Avenue of Trees'
6. Blockbusters
7. British WWII submachine gun
8. Caribou use their hooves to search for these food sources beneath the snow
9. Get left stuff via a will
10. New Mexico's artsy town
11. Bit of a jerk
12. Pretty material
13. Glancer
22. NBA Hornets city, for short
24. Irish singer Mr. Morrison
27. Fun-style parent
28. Lockups
29. Tea Leoni drama on CBS, "_ Secretary"
30. Where to have the world as a success: 3 wds.
31. Cote Saint-_, Quebec
32. The Outsiders author Ms. Hinton's
35. Addams Family relative
36. _ Chi (Martial Art)
38. Decrease of tempo, in music
41. Places in close proximity
42. Mark Twain's real surname
44. Frog's furniture: 2 wds.
45. Polar
47. Dadaist Jean
48. One-of-some in many soups
52. Benjamin of movies/TV
53. Marching band instrument
54. Burden
55. Hankerings
56. Instance
57. Tennis serving whiz
58. Trophy-receiving athletes, e.g.

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Forget about what others expect and do only what interests you. But you don't have to do it on your own. Group activities are under excellent stars at the moment, so get together with people who share your vision.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Why burden yourself with so many commitments? Just because you can do most tasks better than other people you know does not mean you have to do them. Learn to delegate.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Expand your horizons. A long-distance trip would be an ideal way to make use of today's cosmic influences, but if that isn't possible at least broaden your mind.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you need assistance today all you have to do is ask. That applies especially to money matters. Joint financial enterprises are now under excellent stars and will be for quite some time, so get a partner and get rich!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you want to get things done today you will have to make others feel as if they are the center of your universe. Make them believe that life revolves around their existence. Then they will do whatever you ask them to.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Jupiter in your sign makes you want to work but it also makes you want to have fun. Get your work done today so that your weekend will be clear.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you are dissatisfied with your lot then raise your sights and start living up to your potential. The Sun in Aquarius will do wonders for your confidence, lack of which is the only thing holding you back.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You have far too many things going on at the moment. If a friend drops hints that they need your support you may feel obliged to give it but make sure they know there are limits.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your social life will blossom and you will be so in demand that you have to turn some invitations down. You will get on best with people in whose company you feel totally relaxed.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You'll get more than one opportunity to boost your income, so don't worry if your cash flow situation does not look too good. The planets indicate there's big money in your future.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Luck is on your side. If you take advantage of it there is no end to what you can accomplish. Don't listen to those who say there are limits to what can be done. For you those limits no longer exist!

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
At this time of year, your imagination is strong, so take part in something creative. Writing, dancing and singing are all well starred, so get out there and put on a show.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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When the disciples were sent out for evangelism Jesus gave them this instruction, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Luke 10: 2 NKJV). You can go beyond praying and minister Christ to a soul today.

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